

# KEEP STRONG

Published by the Intercommunal Survival Committee  
VOL. 1 NO. 11 JUNE, 1976 25 CENTS

• Protest Food Stamp Cuts  
• Alternative Schools Conference

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## In This Issue

1. This 11th issue of **KEEP STRONG** focuses on "the right to organize" and recent government moves to curtail this right, a move that appears to have included assassination. See the Editorial, page 2; "On The Street," page 4 and "Cripple and Destroy," page 22.
2. A highly successful dance and fundraiser followed the monthly meeting as Uptown's model tenants union won housing victories and strengthened its co-op structure. See page 10 and page 19.
3. Speaking along with many other community representatives, Kim Nash blasted food stamp cuts at a very significant public hearing held last month. See page 6.
4. Ericka Huggins added a unique element to the first national alternative schools conference in two moving presentations. See page 28.
5. Singer Bev Grant and "The Human Condition" are featured this month as the Entertainment section shifts to the developing "people's culture." See page 42.



# THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

*Imagine that you had continuously and deliberately caused a large group of people to suffer: to go without food in a land of plenty, without jobs in a cornucopia of technology, without medical care in the midst of a highly organized medical science and without adequate education for their children where teachers and materials were in abundance. If you had done that you would become nervous and afraid every time you saw those people whispering together. When two of them who did not know each other met and had discussions you would worry. If some of them began calling meetings and putting out newspapers and magazines for the others to read, talking about the things you had done, why, you would break out in a cold sweat. You would try to keep these people you had used to make yourself rich from becoming organized. That would be a reasonable course of action for you to take to preserve yourself.*

*Recent revelations in the Senate Committee report on intelligence activities and the rights of Americans, in the Fred Hampton/Mark Clark civil suit and in the San Quentin 6 trial show that those in power have, in fact, taken such a "reasonable" course of action. The revelations document assassinations, assaults, robbery, false arrest and imprisonment, blackmail, theft and many other crimes that the FBI and other intelligence agencies of the U.S. government committed against almost every form of people's organization over the last fifteen years, especially beginning in 1966. In all the reports the purpose of these illegal acts was to prevent people from coming together in an organized way.*

*Why is organization so dangerous? Those in power knew that individuals do not make change. They knew that only when people directed themselves through their own organized structure could they change the balance of power. They knew it through experience; they were in power because they had organized themselves. They were afraid of leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. or Fred Hampton because these people were creating organization.*

*Those in power have not stopped their attempt to keep us from becoming organized. The FBI still schemes and plots. There are still burglaries and illegal surveillance and frame-up trials and grand juries continuing today. It is, of course, our job to expose them and attempt to keep them within the*





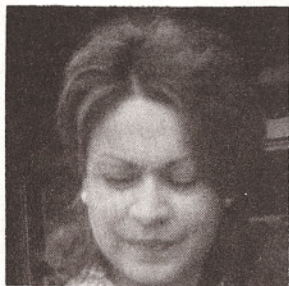
law. But the people of this country should understand that the violence and bloodshed of the sixties and early seventies did not come from poor and oppressed people organizing for survival and change. Change could be accomplished peacefully: if those in power observed our legal right to organize and stayed within the law themselves.

Now that some of the truth has come out and some of the revelations have been made, it is time we expressed a debt of gratitude to organizations such as the Black Panther Party. With all the government's money and technology, they were not able to destroy the Black Panther Party because it was rooted too deeply in the hearts and struggles of poor people. If they could have destroyed them they would have been able to destroy many other organizations. They did not, and our struggle continues to organize ourselves so that we can survive and change our condition for the better. □



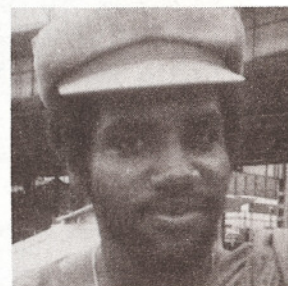
# ON THE STREET

**"DO YOU THINK THE FBI HAS THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE ITS ORGANIZED ATTACKS ON PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS?"**



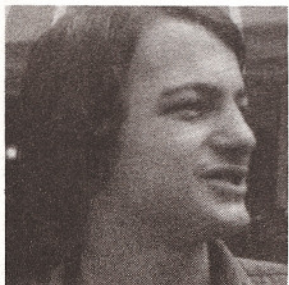
**Lilly Shoenborn**  
6826 N. Ridge

**"No; I don't think so, because no one has the right, in my opinion, to stick their nose in other people's business. And if this is a so-called free country, then everybody should be allowed to go up to the limits of the law, to do what they think is right."**



**Larry Marshall**  
N. Kenmore

**"No; they ain't supposed to be busting in and just do what they want to in your house. You're supposed to have some kind of rights."**



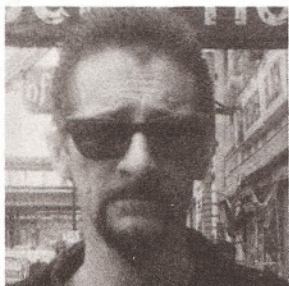
**Ronald Etzig**  
1908 N. Whipple

**"No; I don't think they should be allowed to do that because all they are messing with is the people's organizations, trying to eliminate them."**



**Helen Rodgers**  
1126 W. Ainslie

**"No; they always try and stop the people from doing something right."**



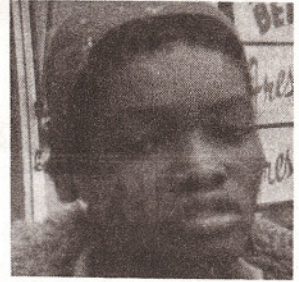
**Frank Kornacki**  
4511 N. Hazel

**"They've been doing it for years, and nobody has spoke up until just recently. I'd say the last year. The public just ignored the fact that the FBI is doing this, and the CIA is doing this. They knock on their door, and they're afraid; everybody starts quivering."**



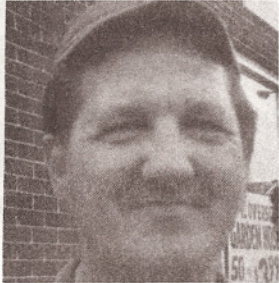
**Ruby Hicks**  
4639 N. Magnolia

**"No; come to think of it, I do think that sometimes some of the organizations for the people are helping the people. They're not against the people, so I don't think they should be attacked."**



**Joe Lund**  
4122 N. Kenmore

**"The FBI has no right at all to do that. It's not right to do that. It's against the laws of humanity to do that."**



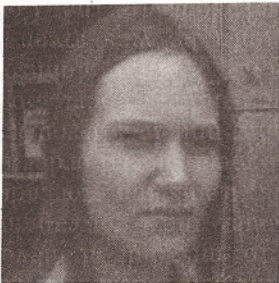
**John Thomas**  
4424 N. Clifton

**"No; I don't think so. It's invasion of privacy. You can't just go in, work people over, do what you want to do whenever you get ready."**



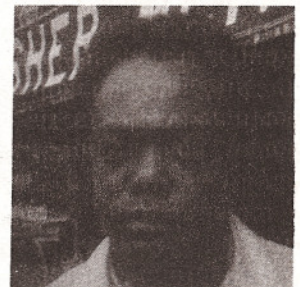
**Rita Rainey**  
5259 W. Potomac

**"No; because I don't think it's none of their business. If they're trying to change it, then let them change it. Something needs to be done."**



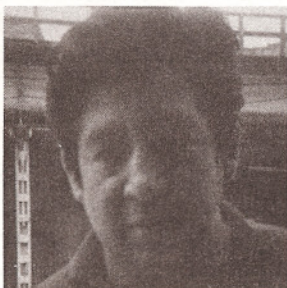
**Alfonso Jenkins**  
4511 N. Hazel

**"No. Everybody has the right to meet. There's a freedom of assembly, right? As long as you're not aggressive and not harming anybody else, why can't they leave you be?"**



**John Hernandez**  
5639 N. Wayne

**"I don't feel that the CIA or any other of these, so-called government spying agencies, that have been brought out in the attention of the public recently, have the right to go into people's private affairs or into these community groups. I have special feelings about their involvement in Latin American countries. They should stay out of these countries. They've been in there long enough. For one thing, the Latin American countries haven't given enough resistance. I think they should get a lot of these American agencies out of there."**





# WELFARE RIGHTS

## Movement Grows To Stop Food Stamp Cuts

Over 300 people gathered at the University of Illinois Chicago Circle Campus Saturday, May 22, representing another step in the growing movement to prevent food stamp cuts. The testimonial hearing which brought many legislators to the community to make themselves accountable was called by the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization and was supported by a broad coalition of organizations and individuals including the Intercommunal Survival Committee (ISC). Community residents from throughout the city energetically voiced their many grievances while participating in the hearing.

The well-attended hearing centered around the new method of budgeting food stamps. While in the past budgeting of public assistance recipients was based on need, the new method is based on net income. Net income is the amount of money left after taking into consideration such things as rent, utilities, medical bills and other necessary expenses. However, none of these deductions are possible for people living in CHA housing or CHA approved leased housing because of a policy that anybody paying under one third of their income for rent is not eligible for these deductions. CHA residents pay anywhere from twenty-five per cent of their income for rent.

Particularly hard hit by these rules are senior citizens and other residents of public housing with some families having to pay as much as \$50 more to purchase food stamps. CHA tenants must pay for such things as utilities, broken windows, falling ceilings, etc. These kinds of expenses are not taken into consideration when net income is figured. Many instances of seniors sending their food stamp cards back to the state because they couldn't afford to buy them have been reported.

Speaking at the hearing, ISC member Kim Nash blasted the present food stamp situation; "Through deliberate cooperation the federal



Community residents from throughout the city energetically voiced their many grievances.

government and the Illinois Department of Public Aid have created a situation where it is almost impossible to survive." Holding the audience's attention, Ms. Nash went on to say, "Although the greatest number of people being affected by the new rules live in public housing, many residents of Uptown who are on the leasing program are also being made to pay more. And now, not only must we pay more but our checks are going to be sent to currency exchanges increasing the already large possibility of them being stolen." Ms. Nash was referring to a new public aid policy in which ADC checks are being sent directly to currency exchanges rather than the recipient's home. Since the announcement of the policy last month, it has been attacked by most community organizations and recipients who may not be able to get to the currency exchange and for making people "extremely vulnerable" to robbery. Opponents say it should be on a voluntary basis.

Also at the hearing, Douglas Huff, State Representative from the 20th district, told the crowd, "You don't have to worry about a national police force, because you are already incarcerated... You are incarcerated in the welfare mental concentration camp." Representative Huff along with State Senator John D'Arco and Congresswoman Cardiss Collins were present at the hearing.

Meanwhile, the Ford administration has proposed a new set of guidelines eliminating five million people from the food stamp program. Scheduled to take effect June 1, a court order issued May 28 has temporarily halted the



implementation of the guidelines. Under Ford's proposal any non-welfare family of four earning over \$458 a month will not be eligible for food stamps despite government statistics revealing that a \$9000 a year income is a minimum standard of living for an urban family of four.

Calling the \$1.2 billion cuts "clearly illegal," the Food Research and Action Center in New York filed the suit which resulted in this court order stopping the proposal from becoming a reality. The suit represents an unprecedented coalition that includes 26 states, 53 labor unions, 22 church groups and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. □

## **ON THE JOB**

### ***"They Told Me I Was Dirty Because I Came From Uptown."***

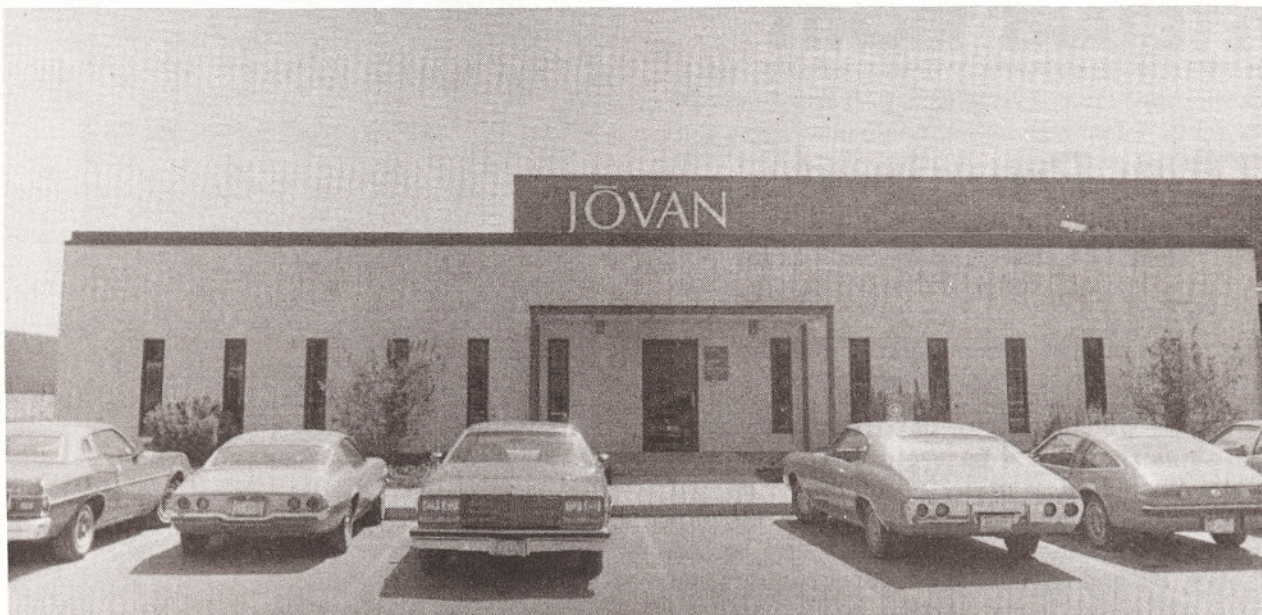
As more and more businesses move out of major U.S. cities, problems are created for the residents remaining. Claiming their tax base is lower, numerous city governments have cut services to inner city residents leaving what has been described as a "wasteland" in more than one

city. While offering no solution or help the beleaguered populations, businesses continue to draw on the scores of unemployed they have left behind whenever it suits their purposes. One such example is the Jovan Perfume Corporation.

A latecomer to the cosmetics industry, Jovan, in the last seven years, has rapidly grown to be a multimillion dollar business based on the "discovery" and sale of a completely synthetic and cheaply produced substance called Musk Oil. With the main plant located in Bensenville, Illinois, on over fourteen acres of what used to be a country club golf course, Jovan products are manufactured through the tedious labor of residents of Uptown and other poor communities across Chicago.

It is estimated that over 75% of those who work at Jovan do so through daily pay. Placing boards between the seats of their vans to hold larger than capacity loads, companies such as Handy Andy transport people to and from Bensenville in a rugged three hour drive. The advantages of this arrangement to both Jovan and Handy Andy are great; Jovan never has to worry about union organizing among day laborers, fringe benefits, workmen's or unemployment compensation. Handy Andy makes immediate profits. They are paid by Jovan \$3.50 an hour plus round trip transportation costs for each worker they send there while paying workers themselves only \$16.33 a day.

Two shifts totaling 175 workers labor at the task of screwing tops on over 200,000 perfume bottles each day. With over 15 different scents,



**"Jovan never has to worry about union organizing among day laborers, fringe benefits, workmen's or unemployment compensation . . . paying workers themselves only \$16.33 a day."**



Jovan has a never ending supply of small perfume bottles on the conveyor belts. Beginning its "life" in 3,000 gallon stainless steel tanks, the liquid is transported through glass tubes where it is injected into containers, "topped," boxed, stamped and placed on conveyor belts to be transported into either waiting trucks or the warehouse.

Under the watchful eye of both "quality inspectors" as well as T.V. cameras, workers have little freedom. Jovan is preoccupied with what they call sanitary conditions making employees wear coats made of an orange material which matches the color of the factory walls. More than one worker has been fired under the guise of filthiness. "They told me I was dirty because I came from Uptown," said one former worker. "I told them to go to hell."

Jovan is owned by three or four men who have decided to keep the company a private affair. The company says that they have to hire through daily pay in order to fill their openings. However in calling to inquire about these openings, one unemployed woman was told there were no openings, and a look at the major newspapers reveals no ads for Jovan.

The reality is very clear. While factories move out of the cities, and unemployment continues to rise, those left behind are forced to work for companies for "starvation wages" and with little hope of ever influencing industry located twenty to thirty miles away from their communities. □

## **VETERANS' RIGHTS**

### ***"They Promised To Teach Me A Skill"***

Mike Johnson enlisted in the army because he thought he would have an opportunity to learn some skills that would be useful to him later in his life. With a lot of promises he signed up and began basic training immediately. In his 5th week of basic training he was assigned to the infantry. He had requested the airborne division where he could learn certain skills, and he realized the promises were not going to be kept.

He was not going to receive any training or skills that he could use once he left the army. Shortly after he went AWOL.

"The reason I went AWOL in basic training was because I didn't get the job that I wanted, and they guaranteed it to me, but it never happened. I went to St. Louis, and I got caught. They sent me to Fort Polk, Louisiana stockade. Three days later they gave me a special order to go back to my basic training unit in Missouri. I went back to Missouri but I didn't report. So I went to West Virginia..." Mike Johnson continued to go AWOL until he was given a general court martial and sent to the Correctional Training Facility at Fort Riley, Kansas. There they gave him an eight weeks basic training course. "There wasn't nothing to it, really. They're not supposed to be real hard on you. 'They kind of pamper you.' When the course was over he was given a ten day leave and instructions to report to the overseas replacement center at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. "I had orders to go to Nam with the infantry division. I was going to Nam without being properly trained for anything. I never reported."

After being AWOL for about two years



Michael Johnson — "It's been tough living like this because I have a wife and two kids."



Michael Johnson was picked up in late 1973. Several weeks later he received an undesirable discharge and was out of the army. "Ever since I've been out I've never been able to get a job except for working out at day labor because of my discharge. It's been tough living like this because I have a wife and two kids."

Except for his experience with the military Michael Johnson has never been convicted of anything. He has been to the local Urban Progress Center to try to get into school to learn a trade and to see about getting his discharge upgraded. But nobody has ever been there when he has gone. He entered into an agreement with the government five years ago and believed that that agreement would be kept. It was not, and he has been paying for it ever since. □

## VA Bureaucracy Slight Veterans

There are 770,900 veterans in Cook County, of whom over 50% live in Chicago. For the past four months every veteran living on the northside of Chicago who is not enrolled in a college or university has had to go to 2030 W. Taylor to get information or air any grievance. The reason for this situation is "the apparent bungling of two different bureaucracies," according to critics of the existing veterans program.

In Chicago there are three institutions a veteran can go to for counseling: the regional office on Taylor, colleges and universities if they are enrolled, and Model Cities Urban Progress Centers. However, the Urban Progress Centers have been charged with having inadequate programs and facilities. For example, in January of this year the veteran counselor at the Montrose Urban Progress Center in Uptown "left to take a higher position," and with him went whatever little services had been offered. "It's not that he was doing so much," said one veteran, "but now I have to go down to the regional office which is overcrowded and far away."

The Veterans Administration (VA) has been under attack for showing more concern for forms and regulations than the well-being of veterans. Instead of having a highly centralized structure with stacks upon stacks of forms, opponents of the present system would like to see a more



The Urban Progress Centers like the one above promise services for veterans but have been charged with having inadequate programs and facilities.

decentralized way of doing things. They say it is possible for checks to come on time, and that greater efforts could be put into informing veterans of what benefits are available so they could take advantage of them.

Mr. Harbin, head of veterans affairs from Model Cities told *KEEP STRONG* that someone has been picked as the new counselor in Uptown but that "city hall bureaucracy which must approve the appointment is slowing things down." The community relations director at the VA didn't know when asked if counselors were available at Urban Progress Centers.

In related developments, several progressive veterans organizations have leveled five charges against the VA. Citing examples, they say that; 1) this Memorial Day 3.7 million veterans are losing their eligibility for the GI bill — veterans who were discharged between 1955 and 1966; 2) Vietnam veterans in school in Chicago are now faced with having to maintain a "C" average or be kicked off the GI bill; 3) the VA is checking attendance at schools, and a certain level is required to continue to receive benefits; 4) in



each VA office there are ten people assigned to locate lost files and checks, but checks still come late; 5) VA hospital staffs are being cut, making medical care worse.

When asked about the charges, a VA spokesman said most of the charges are true. He placed the blame on Congress for passing the laws and does not recommend that veterans contact their congressmen as "this always slows the process down." An inquiry from a congressman requires the VA to immediately find the veteran's file, a procedure that is highly resented by the administration.

While the VA denies its hospital staffs are being cut, sources close to the situation report that across the country, full-time staff members are being replaced with part-time work-study students leaving the misleading statistic that the amount of staff is increasing.

The question of adequate benefits and services is a particular sore point with veterans. "They used us to fight their wars and run their machines. . . As far as the rulers of this country are concerned we would have been better off dead. Then we'd be honored. For the living, we get nothing more than promises."

## **TENANTS' RIGHTS**

### ***Tenants Club Learns Rights, Wins Demands***

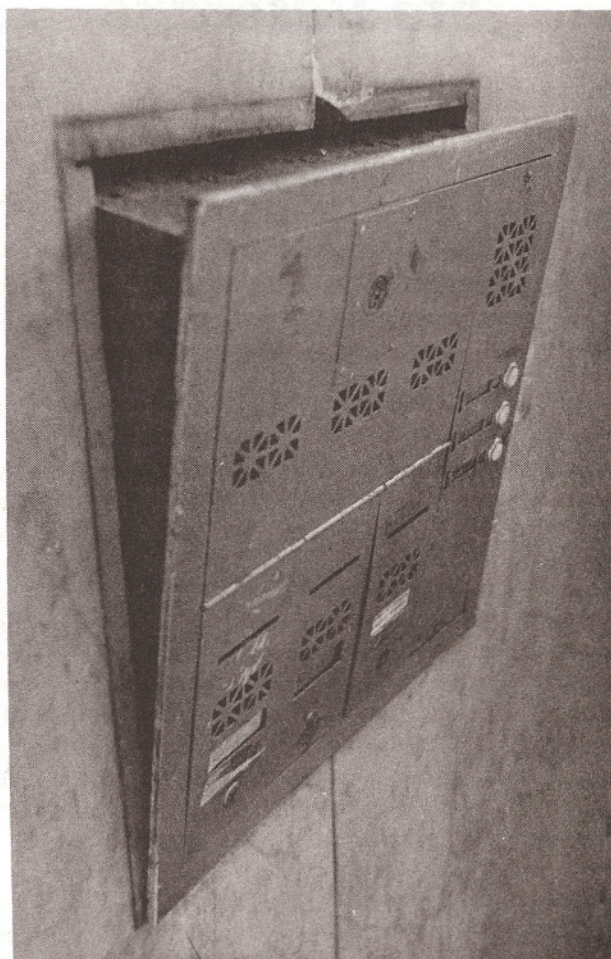
Overcoming threats, double talk and in one case a retaliatory eviction, tenants at 4416-22 N. Magnolia with the support of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union have recently won a series of demands concerning the improvement of their building.

In March of this year tenants of the building formed a club as part of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union. At a well-attended meeting on March 12, residents discussed their common problems and came to some important conclusions; four demands were formulated involving the security and well-being of the tenants: (1) the

installation of secure mailboxes for each family as the present ones were unusable; (2) the installation of lights inside each of the four entrances; (3) the repairing of all broken windows, some of which had been broken for over three months; (4) that the Diver family of 12 currently residing in a four room apartment in the basement of the building be permitted to move into a five room apartment. Also, in the meeting it was pinpointed exactly who were the owner and the manager of the 25 unit building. Tenants found that they had been told conflicting stories about this.

On March 15, Mr. Gorlo, the owner, attended a meeting and agreed to meet the four demands. However, over the following two weeks Gorlo only repaired the broken windows, doing nothing about the other conditions.

On April 6, Gorlo went to the home of Ms. Irene Jamison, a long-standing tenant and key organizer of the tenants club, and asked for the rent. Ms. Jamison told him that the rent wasn't



The tenants at 4416-22 N. Magnolia forced their landlord to install new mailboxes in their building. "When we know our rights, and when we stand firmly together, we can get what we need accomplished."





The tenants club stood firmly behind Ms. Jamison (above).

due 'til the 16th and that he would get it then.

During the next two week period not only were none of the other agreed upon repairs made, but an additional one became necessary when a light in Ms. Jamison's apartment became disconnected from the ceiling. On the 16th Gorlo came again and asked for the rent. Ms. Jamison, standing on both her legal rights and a prior agreement with the owner that no rent would have to be paid as long as repairs on the apartment were necessary, refused to pay the rent, telling Gorlo that she had the money and would pay when the bathroom light was fixed.

Since the owner had taken no responsibility in fulfilling the agreement, the tenants moved to circulate a petition demanding safe and secure mailboxes. With the majority of tenants signing, club members went to the Uptown post office and presented the local postmaster with the signed petitions. On the same day Gorlo gave Irene Jamison a five day notice to move and started eviction proceedings. He said it was for failure to pay rent. Undaunted because she knew her legal rights, Ms. Jamison told Gorlo, "You know that when I get my light fixed I will pay the rent. The only reason you're giving me this is because I

went to the post office this morning." Gorlo's only response was a curt, "I told you I wasn't fooling around."

Calling a meeting, the club stood firmly behind Ms. Jamison, writing Gorlo a letter telling him, "We would like to remind you that it is clearly illegal to evict a person in retaliation for complaints made to a public agency about a building and that statements you have made to people in the building clearly indicate the retaliatory nature of the eviction." This was on April 27. Three days later the post office stopped all delivery of mail to the building. Within four days after delivery had stopped, work had begun on the entrance lights, mailboxes and the light in Ms. Jamison's bathroom.

On May 24, Irene Jamison requested a jury trial to fight the illegal eviction. A trial date has not yet been set. Organized and militant in their stand, the tenants have won three of their four demands, with strong expectations of winning the fourth. To quote one tenants union member, "This is an example we can all learn from. When we know our rights, and when we stand firmly together behind our needs and demands, we can get what we need accomplished. Gorlo has been baffled. He's had to respond to us because we know what we're talking about. The ability to control how we live is in our own hands."□

## **SLUMLORD OF THE MONTH**

### ***Irmco Corporation & Melvin A. Levin***

In recent weeks, the offices of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union have received a series of phone calls describing a picture of gloom and misery for many of the hundred or so senior citizens who live in the Lakeland House, a "retirement hotel" on N. Sheridan Road, just south of Wilson Avenue. The cheaply decorated lobby on the first floor is intended to hide the peeling paint and cracking plaster in the small apartments upstairs. The building is chilled through in the winter and unreasonably hot in the summer, and the management has not fulfilled the promise it made over a year ago to repair the heating and cooling systems. The



management has also failed to take the necessary steps to rid the building of the cockroaches and other vermin which are found in abundance in certain sections. Reports of poor wiring, dilapidated furniture, faucets which leak, belch and cough but release water at a slow drip, no janitorial service, broken elevators and no security all add to the growing indictment of Irmco, the owner of the building, as a major slumlord.

Irmco is a multimillion dollar real estate business, headed by Melvin A. Levin. They have made a fortune in the retirement business. If you can pay the price, you can move into the North Shore Retirement Hotel in Evanston or any one of the seven or eight other expensive hotels which they operate. If you can't pay the big price, they'll rent you a bed in the Lakeland House or one of their other slum buildings.

However, speculation and development is Irmco's real interest. Irmco has over \$20 million invested in the city of Chicago. The bulk of this money is centered in retirement hotels stretching from Woodlawn to Evanston. Wherever there is an Irmco Hotel there are Irmco people involved in trying to "upgrade the area." Irmco and Levin are involved in "community development" because it protects and increases the value of their properties. For Uptown, they have decided that Wilson Ave. needs revitalization.



For Uptown, Irmco has decided that Wilson Ave. needs revitalization.

They propose to make Wilson into a mall, like the Sunnyside Mall. The "New Wilson Avenue," (There is a drawing of it in the window of the Uptown Chamber of Commerce) will have spice shops and exotic restaurants because, as Irmco spokesmen say, "We believe in the continued economic growth of the city."

Irmco has not only asked the government for \$1.5 million to improve two blocks of Wilson Avenue, but has also made their city-wide intentions clear. They will move to "upgrade" any area, moving the oppressed community out everywhere they have money invested. Irmco tries to maintain good public relations by talking about renovation and improvement, but building department records show that the Lakeland House has been in building court for code violations for the last year and a half. □

## **POLICE WATCH**

### **Controversy Over Police Activity In Northern Lakeview**

Recent police activity in northern Lakeview has caused many residents "to think twice" before asking for police co-operation. The controversy stems from a series of arrests carried out in the Halsted-Roscoe area supposedly initiated to rid the community of drug pushers.

Arresting over fourteen people, five of whom were juveniles, in a space of four weeks, "the police have not gotten to the source of the problem," according to area residents. Pointing out that only four of the arrests have been for narcotics, but under the guise of disorderly conduct, the Lakeview residents say that Town Hall Commander Thomas Hanly has gone back on his original agreement to stop harassing youths in the area, and that he intends to continue; "We will keep it up as long as we have to," Hanly was quoted as saying earlier in the month.

Originally asked at a May 7 meeting to station a patrol car on the corner, Hanly refused, telling





Town Hall Commander Thomas Hanly has gone back on his original agreement to stop harassing youths in the Halsted-Roscoe area.

people at the meeting that the police would do it their own way. The meeting was called by the Triangle Neighbors, a loose association of people connected with the Lakeview Citizens Council.

When reached for comment on the situation, Eric Rasmussen, head of the Triangle Neighbors told *KEEP STRONG* that the police actions "didn't get to the root of it," but that "all we're concerned about is the appearance of the results. We can't tell the police what to do. We're getting paid to get results."

While police say that the method of constant harassment does not violate the civil rights of those being arrested, most observers question the method. "All it has accomplished so far is to fill the jails with more young people who had no place to go," commented one long time resident. "We have a right to expect more from both the police department and our community organizations."

Because residents are genuinely concerned about the influx of drugs into the area, they have criticized Rasmussen for not serving the real needs and desires of the community. "We do not need community organizations that are not willing to struggle with institutions to make them more responsible to the community. He may be getting paid to work here, but we pay to

live here."

The problem of drugs is rapidly growing in the city. Most observers agree that as long as unemployment continues to rise, the quality of education remains low, and few decent recreational facilities are provided for young people, drugs will remain a serious problem. As one resident of 800 W. Newport said, "We are not trying to lock up all the young people. We are trying to rid this community of the drugs that are destroying our young people. The police know how they come into the city; why don't they stop it?" □

## Beat Rep Lives Outside Her District

Ms. Arlene Norton, 23rd district beat representative co-ordinator has violated existing police department regulations by living out of the district for the past three months.

The beat rep program has been billed by the Chicago Police Department as a program for community accountability — their answer to community control of police. The program, however, has been accused by many as a police spy program that uses patronage workers and those blindly loyal to the police to be the "eyes and ears" of the police.

Although not on the payroll as of yet, Ms. Norton has been acting as district co-ordinator and was presented by Sgt. Bullerman of the 23rd district at a beat representative meeting last month as the "new co-ordinator." While saying at the meeting that she resides at 720 W. Gordon Terrace, *KEEP STRONG* has learned from reliable sources that Ms. Norton and her husband James actually have resided at 100 E. Walton on the fashionable "gold coast" for over three months. On March 5, 1976, the Chicago Police Department issued a press release concerning the beat representative program in which it stated that "the district co-ordinator must be both active and a member of the district." The fact that Ms. Norton has moved out of the district has suggested to many critics of the program that the police department "is intent upon using the program for its own political ends."





Arlene Norton (inset), a police beat representative in the 23rd district has misrepresented herself as living in the district. Her residence at 100 E. Walton (above) is outside the district.

**KEEP STRONG** also learned this month that besides other activities, Ms. Norton has supplied information to lawyers defending police officers on charges of brutality and in at least one instance has gone into the district to "lobby" for officers who were still being investigated by the police department for brutality charges. A long time supporter of conservative and reactionary block clubs, Ms. Norton was placed "in charge" of the 23rd district beat rep program when the Town Hall district was redistricted late last year. She stands to make over \$14,000 a year in her capacity as co-ordinator.

Meanwhile Citizens Alert, a civil liberties organization which itself has been the object of police infiltration and spying, charged at a recent meeting of the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC) that the police department was deliberately dragging its feet to avoid releasing the names of persons chosen for positions in the beat rep program. ILEC awarded the police department a \$500,000 grant for this program to open up store front offices with paid personnel throughout Chicago. One of the terms of the funding was that the names and addresses of those hired be turned over to ILEC.

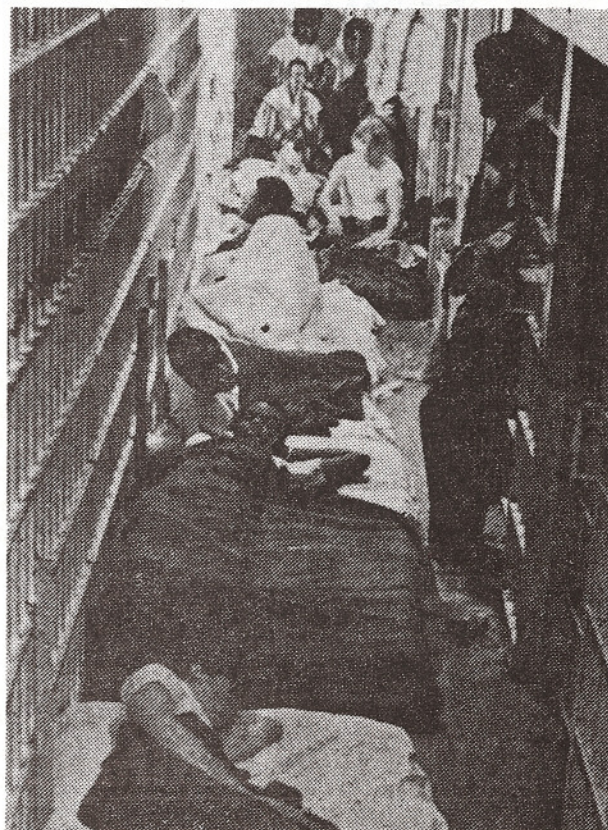
"The facts that Ms. Norton lives out of the district, and the Chicago Police Department does not want to release the names does not surprise me at all," commented one community leader. "Whether or not she lives in the community is not the real question. For over three years we have been warning people about the danger of the program. What we are witnessing now is just the tip of the iceberg emerging." □

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### Tensions At Stateville Intensified

Recently returning from an inspection of Stateville Penitentiary, observers noted "overcrowding, lack of sanitary facilities and general deterioration of conditions." Linking the overpopulation to the recent transfer of Illinois state prison populations (see **KEEP STRONG**; May, 1976; Vol. 1, No. 10), the observers cited numerous examples to support their charges of unsafe and inhuman conditions.

Last month in a sharply criticized move, inmates from throughout the state were transferred from prison to prison causing unnecessary hardship for many and thereby violating wholesale their basic human rights. The purpose of the move, state officials claim, was that the number of inmates requesting protective custody had risen sharply. In order to accommodate the "increase," prison officials transferred the young



Prisons throughout the U.S. are overcrowded and sites of unsafe, filthy and inhuman conditions.



and "vulnerable" inmates to Joliet while moving the so-called "hardened element" to B-House in Stateville.

Since the transfer, the population in Stateville has risen over 300 with as many as four men sleeping in cells designed for two inmates. Mattresses are scarce with none of the population having clean linen. Many of the inmates have no sheets, and almost none of the tiers have any cleaning supplies.

While prison officials deny that the transfer has laid the groundwork for more oppressive conditions, critics say that the facts substantiate the charges. They point out that Stateville is now over 75% Black and Latino while at least 50% of the guards are uneducated rural whites, and that state prison officials consider those inmates now incarcerated in Stateville to be the so-called "hardened element." Both inmates and minority guards say Klan activity as well as brutality by white correctional officers are on the increase. In a well-documented letter to Governor Daniel

Walker, the Afro-American Officers' Movement, an organization of Black correctional officers, stated 34 demands to improve conditions in the prison "in the interest of all oppressed people at Stateville and elsewhere."

Included in the demands are the removal of Klan organizers at Stateville, notably Lt. Roper; that the parole board be integrated and that senior white officers stop forcing minority guards to beat up Black inmates. Criticizing the administration, the letter goes on to say, "The chain of command from the warden's office to the back office at Stateville has no minority representation whatsoever, and the highest ranking officer among the minority officers is a lieutenant."

For quite some time Stateville has been called "an example of poor administration carried out in an inadequate facility." The recent transfer of more people into an already overcrowded and tense situation can only lead to greater disorder. □

## **HEALTH NEWS**

### **Milwaukee Community Health Project Attacks Hypertension**

On June 2, the Eastside Community Health Organization will begin a neighborhood blood pressure screening program to alert the community to the dangerous effects of hypertension and will arrange for assistance to those who have it. ECHO, a survival program of the Intercommunal Survival Committee in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will first concentrate its efforts in the West of the River community. Trained staff will go door to door through the neighborhood with blood pressure equipment and educational materials.

Medical workers in the program point out that this year alone high blood pressure will help kill nearly 25,000 Americans. Studies approximate that nearly twenty-three million Americans, or one in ten people, are afflicted with this condition. ECHO also points out that you can

"feel healthy, look terrific and have high blood pressure, because it hits relaxed people as well as tense people, and generally there are no symptoms."

On the other hand, your blood pressure can be



ISC member Steve Cole takes a community resident's blood pressure in Milwaukee: "quickly, painlessly, easily and free."



taken in half a minute, "quickly, painlessly, easily and free!" And with minimal but consistent follow-up, the condition can be safely controlled without restricting a normal life.

Milwaukee I.S.C. member Steve Cole complained that the city could easily implement this crucial screening program throughout all neighborhoods utilizing the new "Neighborhood Service Aides" recently hired with CETA money. The aides are now urged to "fight crime" but do little but walk around the streets or sit in restaurants. Just as the Black Panther Party forced the government to implement breakfast programs in the schools throughout the nation with its free hot breakfast for children program, ECHO hopes to force the city to initiate vital preventative health screening programs.

The ECHO office is located at 822 E. Center Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The phone number is (414) 562-6636. □

## Health Fair Successful

Charging that the current medical care system in this country fails to serve the needs of the majority of people, a People's Health Fair was recently held in Chicago. The Fair offered a glimpse of the potential for health care. Fair organizers, pointing to enormous profits by hospitals and doctors, claimed, "Health care has become a system run by and for an elite of wealthy people."

The People's Health Fair, sponsored by the Fritz Englestein Community Health Clinic, was held Saturday, May 22 on the 2700 block of N. Wilton near Diversey. A bright sunny day and colorful atmosphere attracted hundreds of interested people. Those who came could attend films, workshops, drama or stroll through the 30 booths and exhibits.

Testing for high blood pressure (hypertension) and tuberculosis was conducted while demonstrations were given in first aid, the harmful effects of smoking, helpful exercises, natural foods and self-examinations for breast cancer among others. The booths had a wide variety of topics ranging from venereal disease, children's, women's and senior citizens' health, heart and



The People's Health Fair recently held in Chicago offered a glimpse of the potential for health care.

lung disease, dieting, occupational health, dental health, cancer, diabetes and many more. Information at every booth was abundant. The lesson of the exhibits was that one of the most important steps in health care is knowledge to prevent medical problems before they occur.

Statistics back up the need for in-depth testing and effective community services especially in inner city, poor neighborhoods. Reports prove that many medical problems such as hypertension result from the continuous stress to survive. Fair organizers pointed out that "where good medical care is needed the most, you will find the worst services, quack doctors and exorbitant prices." □

**"Quality Health Care  
Is A  
Human Right."**



# FIGHTING CITY HALL

## City Moves To Stop Community Voter Registration

On May 1, the Board of Election Commissioners, unexpectedly ended its special "minorities voter registration project." This project, begun last September, was to have continued through October, 1976. Hailed by Commissioner Hanly last August as a great step forward to increase minority participation in the "democratic process" during this bicentennial election year, this project was to increase voter registration in the minority areas which last August was less than 50%.

The special project was initiated last July by the Board of Election Commissioners and the Chicago Urban League, the Intercommunal Survival Committee, Puerto Ricans Organized for Political Action, the Lakeview Latin Coalition, the Young Lords Organization and 17 other community organizations. Community volunteers were deputized and trained to register people to vote at their community organization offices. In addition, special outreach registration was carried on in locations where people tend to congregate, like churches, high schools and major shopping centers.

In the first four months of the project the People's Coalition for Voter Registration registered 14,100 people to vote, representing a greater number of Black, Latino and poor registrations than has been done at any other time in Chicago. Most of the registrations were new voters. By February the project had established sites in 28 of the city's 50 wards, all of them in predominantly Black, Latino and poor white areas of the city.

The coalition was busy making additional plans for voter registration when the project was suddenly stopped. Coalition members say they had already contacted all Chicago high schools and many churches and shopping centers to set up voter registration days and were in the process of making concrete plans for a very intense voter registration drive during the summer months. Coalition members charge that the special voter registration project was

stopped primarily for political reasons.

As the May 1 resumption of the project neared after the primary election break, Commissioners Suthers and Medley suddenly decided they were against the project. Commissioner Suthers, in a letter to Mr. Ian Levin, a legal advisor for the Board of Election Commissioners, charged that the project was discriminatory because it was confined to the minority areas and did not deal with the stable white areas of the city (where registration is close to 90%). She also charged that the project was too expensive because it allowed community volunteers, who she claimed the Board had no control over, to do the registration instead of using the deputy registrars who were paid by the Board, an obviously contradictory statement. Many cite Commissioner Medley's ties to Alderman Kenner, a Daley democrat who recently lost a very close election for the ward committeeman of the 3rd ward to Ralph Metcalfe for his sudden turn about. Many believe Kenner blames these new registrations for his defeat by Metcalfe since he lost by about a 20 vote margin.



A voter registration workshop: Many believe Kenner voted to halt the community campaign because he blames it for his defeat by Metcalfe.



Meanwhile, the Board of Election Commissioners has purchased a bus which they say will be dispatched throughout the city to accomplish the task of community registration. The bus will be manned by employees of the Board of Election Commissioners. As *KEEP STRONG* goes to press, this bus remains locked up in the Civic Center plaza where it has been since early May and has not taken one registration in any community in Chicago. In the words of one coalition member, "It is obvious that Daley and his puppet aldermen all the way down to the precinct captain feel threatened by any increased community awareness of the workings of Chicago politics. These people will do anything in their power to stop this process because it is obvious to everyone that any increased awareness on the part of the people of Chicago spells trouble for the Daley machine." □

## HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

### *Pilsen Community Organizes Against Chicago 21 Plan*

Calling for a city-wide coalition to stop the Chicago 21 Plan a conference was recently held to "unite as many forces as possible and create a community voice" in response to city plans to redevelop the Pilsen community through the Chicago 21 Plan. Like all the other city plans designs for the inner city neighborhoods, community residents suspect that the real purpose of the 21 Plan is to move out the people living there now and to build new housing and institutions (schools, hospitals, etc.) for those expected to move in.

As a coalition pamphlet states: "On paper the Chicago 21 Plan looks good. It sounds like a well-organized plan that will greatly improve the area for the benefit of all. But in fact, the Chicago 21 Plan is really not for us, the residents of Pilsen. It was not created with us in mind, much less for our benefit. We must beware that the Chicago 21 Plan was created and proposed by a group of downtown businessmen that include such people as the Chairman of Sears, Roebuck and Co., the Chairman of First Federal Savings &

Loan Association, the Chairman of Carson Pirie Scott & Co., the President of Commonwealth Edison Co., the Chief Executive Office of People's Gas Co., the Chairman of the First National Bank of Chicago, and many others of the same type."

The May 16 conference set up three commissions to investigate and initiate action on the many community issues affected by the Chicago 21 Plan. These commissions are education, housing and social services. On May 21 the coalition's education commission held a successful demonstration at the Chicago Board of Education to tell the board "to stop the 21 Plan and pay attention to Pilsen's educational needs.

The housing commission has been mandated by the coalition to meet the need for "1) low-income housing by calling for actions to pressure local and downtown banks to grant low-interest loans and mortgages; 2) pressure the city to revise building codes to meet our housing needs; 3) to pressure for city, state and federal funds to build low-income housing for Pilsen residents."

To meet Pilsen's need for better bilingual and bicultural education, the education commission is calling for actions to "1) pressure for community control of the construction, curriculum and use of the new Benito Juarez High School; 2) pressure for building a new Komenski school, and for rehabilitating other area schools; and 3) pressure for funded bilingual and bicultural reading programs at all levels."



Community control of the construction, curriculum and use of the new Benito Juarez High School would be an important stronghold for the community.

Finally, the social services commission is calling for action to "1) pressure for job training for residents of our community; 2) pressure for more and better parks and recreational centers in our community; and 3) pressure for more funding for the present social service agencies in our community." □



# TENANTS UNION REPORT

## Tenant Union Meeting: "Some Serious Business"

The business-like atmosphere at the May 15 monthly meeting of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union reflected the serious intentions of the many members present to carry out the crucial task of building a strong survival apparatus while participating in the growing city-wide tenants movement.

A full agenda reflected the many different aspects of the tenants union's growth, and its members' righteous struggle for survival. Leading off the program, Marc Kaplan a hard working organizer of the food co-op recently begun by the tenants union, reported on the co-op's rapid growth and varied plans for the future. Reminding other members present of the benefit dance to be held the following weekend, brother Kaplan explained the co-op's desire to increase the depth of the program by increasing the variety of foods available and ensuring proper and consistent transportation. Many community residents present who were working on the dance — planning entertainment, preparing food, and selling tickets — were introduced to the general membership and received an enthusiastic round of applause.

Other points of thought-provoking agenda included a presentation on the "Defense of Evictions," an explanation of the new procedure for filing grievances against caseworkers for the Department of Public Aid, an announcement of the city-wide food stamp hearing to be held May 22 and a progress report on the tenant struggle at 4420 N. Magnolia (see page 10).

Highlighting the meeting, Jack Hart, leading member of the ISC, made a featured appearance, taking this opportunity to sum up the experience and purpose of the growing people's tenant union. Citing recent revelations made public by the Senate Intelligence Committee report, in the Fred Hampton/Mark Clark civil rights suit, and in the San Quentin 6 trial, of numerous FBI attacks on people's organizations, particularly the Black Panther Party, brother Hart stated:



Jack Hart, ISC leading member, addresses union meeting.

"What this all really means to us is do we have a right to organize our own communities in our own interests, organize so that we can survive. That is what the FBI was really challenging — our right to organize.

"We have to say that we not only have the right to organize, but also that we have a mandate to organize. I mean, if we are going to survive at all in this community or in any other oppressed community, then we must build an organization which will move to ensure our survival. It must be an organization which concerns itself with the basic things which we need in our daily lives, like decent housing, food, clothing and decent medical care, and the right to give our children a decent education. No one is going to build this organization, for us; it is up to us. We have to do it ourselves."

Referring to recently disclosed documents that characterize the Breakfast for Children Program as the most dangerous thing that the Black Panther Party did, the speaker pointed out that even the most basic things that we do together, even the most logical, human things we organize around will not be allowed by the people in power. "They will oppose us and attempt to destroy our organization in any way possible. Therefore, it will be necessary to defend our organization, defend ourselves and our neighbors, defend our right to survive, give support to each other in our struggle to survive. But most important it will be necessary to defend our right to organize in our own interests. □



# Tenants Union Dance A Big Success

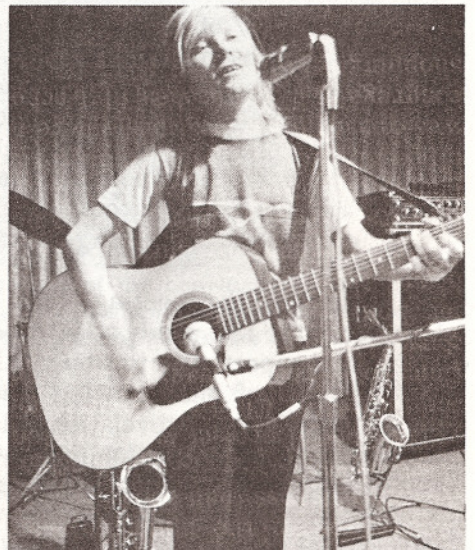
A highly successful benefit dance was held May 21 by the Uptown Tenants Survival Union to raise funds for the rapidly growing food co-op it initiated last month. Over 400 union supporters attended this true "people's affair." People of all ages crowded into the People's Church, 941 W. Lawrence, for a lively evening of fun and dancing. Scores of community residents and tenants union members who had dedicated their time, ideas and hard work beamed at the success of their efforts.

Top entertainment was provided by Ray Hillburn and "Coyote," well known for their

many appearances at Pam's Playhouse; the OSB band with Charlie James, often featured at the High Chaparral; and popular community singers Kim Nash and Gary Stromme. A well-received performance by the youthful dance team, the North Side Equators, highlighted the already enjoyable affair.

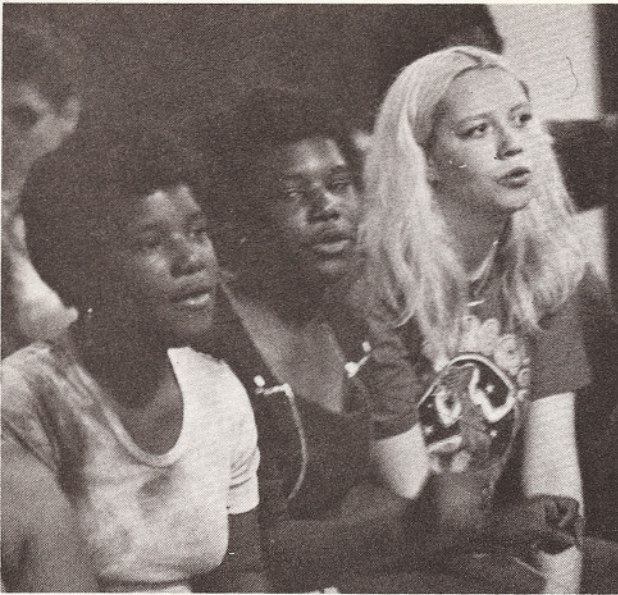
Young brothers and sisters from the community enthusiastically danced to the top flight entertainment interspersed with a dance contest and an exciting raffle. Delicious dinners of fried chicken, cole slaw, potato salad, a variety of relishes, beverages, taffy apples, and cakes were sold at nominal prices to raise funds for the innovative programs of the tenants union.

A truly good time was had by all. In the words of one youthful participant, "This is the kind of event we can have when people work together to build something good for the community, enjoying ourselves while doing it." □



Clockwise: Ray Hillburn and "Coyote," Kim Nash, Gary Stromme, the OSB Band.





People of all ages crowded into the church for a lively evening of fun and dance — and raised \$500 for the food co-op.



# ***Cripple and Destroy***

## ***Government War on People's Organizations Exposed***

Last month more "revelations" surfaced in the government's war on groups and individuals who dared to organize against official policies toward Black and poor people or official war policies in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Following devastating evidence of FBI illegalities and atrocities presented in the Fred Hampton/Mark Clark civil suit in Chicago and in the San Quentin 6 trial in California, the U.S. Senate Select Committee To Study Governmental Operations With Respect To Intelligence Activities released a several hundred page report of their findings. The Committee's fundamental conclusion was that "intelligence activities have undermined the constitutional rights of citizens," although arch-conservative Barry Goldwater refused to sign the report in the belief that "it can cause severe embarrassment, if not grave harm, to the nation's foreign policy." He did not dispute the truth of the report.

### **Who the Government Attacked**

Far before Nixon's "Watergate government," Presidents authorized illegal surveillance against congressmen, congressional staff, law firms, labor unions and countless individual citizens for purely "political" purposes. But more serious, the FBI and other intelligence agencies went beyond simple surveillance to harass, cripple and, the evidence shows, to eliminate individuals and organizations considered a political threat to the political forces then in power.

As a result of the investigation numerous calls have been made to reopen the inquiry into the assassination of John Kennedy since, at the very least, government intelligence organizations covered up massive amounts of information which they had about this assassination and possible participation by them in it.

A full scale attack was made on Dr. Martin



**Martin Luther King, Jr. and J. Edgar Hoover**

Luther King. The government agencies planted news stories to discredit him, threatened those who made financial contributions to his efforts, carried out extensive illegal surveillance on his activities and even at one point tried to blackmail him into committing suicide.

FBI agents in the Ku Klux Klan helped plan and execute terrorist activities, including murder, under the guise of gathering intelligence, while they did not report the Klan's intended actions or make attempts to prevent them.

The finished product of the Senate Committee states: "This report does demonstrate that the chief investigative branch of the federal government, which was charged by law with investigating crimes and preventing criminal conduct, itself engaged in lawless tactics and responded to deep-seated social problems by fomenting violence and unrest." The essence of the report, according to many observers, is that the FBI and



other intelligence agencies carried out the same kind of sinister and often brutal counterintelligence activities against organizations and individuals that are carried out against so-called "hostile foreign governments." The list of activities could have been fitted into a James Bond movie without dampening the sensationalism in the slightest.

### **The Size of the Domestic War Operation**

Beside the hundreds of thousands of government personnel involved in the intelligence agencies such as the FBI, CIA, DIA and the NSA along with multimillion dollar equipment, there was wholesale recruitment of local law enforcement agencies into the campaign. The report cites the fact that FBI agents worked closely with Chicago police, meeting with police intelligence officers three or four times a week. Police and FBI offices and agents exchanged information and often planned operations together. The total number of personnel involved in the campaign to cripple and destroy opposition in this country at one time or another can logically be placed around a quarter of a million. Taxpayers' money for these operations is entirely hidden in secret budgets.

### **The Main Target**

By July, 1969 the Black Panther Party had become the "primary focus" of the most vicious of



Fred Hampton

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***"The stated hope of these rumors and letters in official internal FBI memoranda was to 'cause damage to the organization and to the persons of the leaders of the Black Panther Party.' "***

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the counterintelligence programs, the FBI COINTELPRO operation. COINTELPRO had begun its focus on the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (Dr. King's organization), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and other smaller civil rights groups, but quickly shifted to the Black Panther Party because that organization marshalled thousands of Black and poor people in urban areas into well-organized, well-disciplined units, and won the hearts and imaginations of the Black and poor communities. Of the known 295 COINTELPRO "authorized" actions, 233 were targeted against the Black Panther Party.

*"The effort to promote violence between the Black Panther Party and well-armed, potentially violent organizations." In the early years of the government campaign against the Party, the FBI concentrated on promoting armed attacks on the organization by groups such as the minutemen, the KKK, the Blackstone Rangers, the US organization (United Slaves) and the mafia. Rumors were placed and letters sent to influential people in these groups stating that the Black Panther Party planned to kill them or destroy or take over their operations. For instance, a letter was sent to Ranger chief Jeff Fort stating that the leaders of the Illinois Black*





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***“According to Hoover, the Free Breakfast Program for Children ‘represents the best and most influential activity going for the Black Panther Party and as such is potentially the greatest threat to efforts by authorities to neutralize the Black Panther Party and destroy what it stands for.’ ”***

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Panther Party, including Fred Hampton, had “a hit out on him.” The stated hope of these rumors and letters in official internal FBI memoranda was to “cause damage to the organization and to the persons of the leaders of the Black Panther Party.”

*“The effort to disrupt the Black Panther Party by promoting internal dissension.”* Agents who had infiltrated into the Party, attempted to “play up factionalism and personality conflicts.” Attempts were made to break up marriages and personal relationships. Letters were sent to leading members suggesting that other leading members were incompetent or that they intended to move out or even kill other leading members. Every avenue of dissension and demoralization was pursued.

*“Covert efforts to undermine the support of the Black Panther Party and to destroy the Party’s public image.”* Hoover ordered the FBI to “sabotage the Free Breakfast Program” operated across the country by the Black Panther Party. According to Hoover, the Free Breakfast Program for Children “represents the best and most influential activity going for the Black Panther Party and as such is potentially the greatest threat to efforts by authorities to neutralize the Black Panther Party and destroy what it stands for.” Efforts were made immediately to keep ministers from allowing their churches to be used for the program, and an inflammatory “Black Panther Coloring Book” — which had been rejected by the Black Panther Party — was circulated throughout the country and represented to be “what was taught” the



children while they ate the hot, nourishing breakfast each schoolday morning.

A concentrated effort was made by the FBI to hinder the circulation of the Black Panther Intercommunal News Service (The Black Panther newspaper) which included getting the airlines to raise shipping costs, placing chemical bombs in the printing plant, consistent misshipping practices, routing papers to far off places and, according to the Black Panther Party, the gangland-style assassination of distribution manager Sam Napier in New York City.

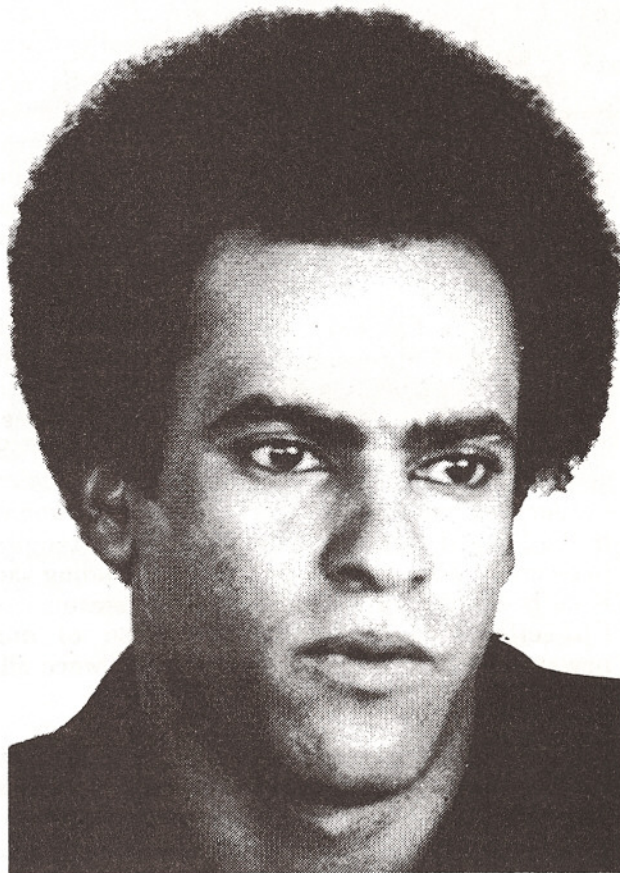
Countless attempts were made to harass those who supported or contributed financially to the Party. Some supporters were the objects of vicious COINTELPRO operations such as putting leaflets out in the community stating that they were police informers. A large number of newspaper and T.V. reporters and commentators were influenced by the FBI to develop media attacks on the Party, and the FBI took responsibility for circulating written attacks on the Black Panther Party throughout the country. Unions were threatened into not allowing their facilities to be used for Black Panther Party survival programs and community meetings.

*"Cooperation between the FBI and local police departments in disrupting the Black Panther Party."* The report documents the government agency's initiative in influencing local law enforcement agencies to wage a war of harassment on the programs and general operations of the Black Panther Party. The instigation and sanction by federal government officials of violence against the Black Panther Party by local police led the more fanatic of them to an unprecedented reign of terror. In the words of the sworn testimony of former L.A. police informer Louis Tackwood, "During this period the police were shooting Panthers left and right, in cars or wherever they could catch them. They were shooting them down as fast as they could find them, and the verdict would always be 'justifiable homicide.'"

Direct FBI involvement in the assassination of Fred Hampton, now being documented in the \$47.7 million lawsuit, opens the door to investigation of FBI involvement in the nearly 40 murders of Black Panther Party members committed under shady and unresolved conditions, as well as the vicious assassination attempts, attacks, and frame-up charges that have forced Huey P. Newton, the leading



**Sam Napier, assassinated BPINS distribution manager.**



**Huey P. Newton, the exiled leader of the Black Panther Party.**



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***“During this period the police were shooting Panthers left and right, in cars or wherever they could catch them. They were shooting them down as fast as they could find them, and the verdict would always be ‘justifiable homicide.’ ”***

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member of the Black Panther Party, into temporary exile out of the country. Tragically, many organizations and individuals throughout this country were damaged beyond repair or destroyed by the government campaign, which the evidence shows is continuing today despite official disclaimers. The Black Panther Party was not destroyed, perhaps because of its deep roots in and dedication to the Black and poor community.

It is appropriate to close this article with the statement issued by the Black Panther Party after the Senate Report was issued:

*The following statement was issued by the Black Panther Party on Friday, May 7, 1976.*

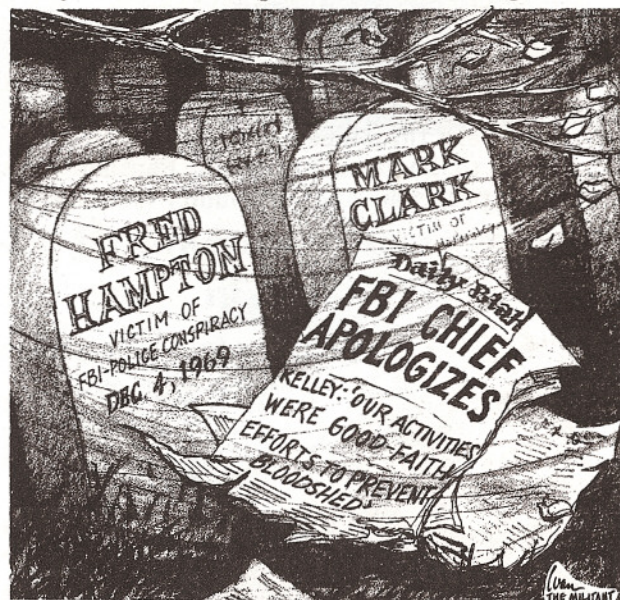
“The latest news release by the Church Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, like its many other offers of proof regarding the federal government campaign to disrupt and destroy the Black Panther Party, is nothing new. As ‘revelations’ and ‘shocking disclosures’ they are simply too little too late.

“Since the early days of the Black Panther Party’s founding, nearly a decade ago, constant attempts have been made to call attention to FBI-led incidents of harassment and violence. The FBI’s use of the Ron Karenga US organization to murder members of the Southern California Chapter of our Party; FBI involvement in the Fred Hampton murder raid; FBI attempts to discredit *all* our Party programs, including the Free Breakfast for Schoolchildren Program; the FBI efforts to block the circulation of our newspaper, *THE BLACK PANTHER*, were all, in the past, met with incredulous denials.

“The fact that the tip of the iceberg now surfaces into clear view, exposing, in fact, only a small part of the federal government conspiracy, is no cause for applause or gratitude. Rather, it is a warning to all Black and poor people generally, and to the American people as a whole, that the

FBI’s program has not stopped but continues today.

“The Church Committee’s ‘revelations’ then can only represent a call to action, each ‘disclosure’ the beginning point for the putting aside of differences and the dawning of a new unity mobilized for positive social change.” □



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***“The ‘revelations’ can only represent a call to action, each ‘disclosure’ the beginning point for the putting aside of differences and the dawning of a new unity mobilized for positive social change.”***

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# THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

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25¢



The Intercommunal Survival Committee, publishers of **KEEP STRONG**, have been selling **THE BLACK PANTHER**, primarily to White people, for over 5 years now. Thousands are sold on the street, thousands more are delivered regularly to home subscribers. Articles from **THE BLACK PANTHER** are also frequently reprinted in **KEEP STRONG**. The many regular readers among poor and progressive Whites is testimony only to the relevance of this fine weekly paper to all oppressed people.

Of all the many contradictions and confusions that divide poor and oppressed people, racism is probably the most vicious and most destructive to unity and power. So much of the society we live in is shaped by the way it oppresses Black and Third World people, that to understand our own situation as Whites, it is necessary also to understand the situation of Black people.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee also believes that the concrete example of the Black Panther Party, the methods of successful struggle, the implementation of many survival programs serving the community, are models from which we can learn in defending ourselves, our families and our own communities from those who would use and abuse us for their own profit.

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# ***Ericka Huggins' Appearance Highlights Alternative Schools Conference***

Over 1,000 people interested and involved in education and educational programs throughout the country met in Chicago last month for the Alternative Schools Conference held May 22 and 23. Nearly 30 booths, exhibits and films were displayed by conference participants during the weekend affair reflecting many creative concerns and methods for educational development.

Speakers at the conference included Ericka Huggins, Director of the innovative Oakland Community School in Oakland, California, Luis Fuentes, Jonathan Kozol and Ivan Illich, all widely known and respected educators. Representing the first formal thrust to develop a national network of individuals, organizations and schools concerned with an alternative to the growing deterioration of public school education throughout the country, the conference additionally provided an excellent opportunity for the exchange of information and ideas.

Certainly one of the highlights of the conference was Ms. Ericka Huggins' two thought-provoking presentations: one Saturday to an overflow workshop on the subject of "Model Schools and the Model School Concept; Focus: the Oakland Community School," and the other Sunday, a special address to the whole conference body.

The Oakland Community School, of which Ms. Huggins is the Director, has an enrollment of 125 and a waiting list of 200. Located in the heart of East Oakland (Oakland's largest Black and Chicano communities), the children who attend the school are Black, Chicano, Asian, Native American and poor white. They range in age from 2½ to 11 years old. The school is housed in the popular Oakland Community Learning Center which has several other programs as well: a seniors program, an adult education program, a teen program, a legal aid program and educational program and a number of other referral services.



**Ericka Huggins, Director of the Oakland Community School.**

The school has a full curriculum of language arts, mathematics, science, social science, art, music, drama, dance, physical education, Spanish and environmental studies (field trips). "Our 2½ year olds are printing; our 3½ year olds are reading; our 7 year olds are doing 6th grade work and our 11 year olds are functioning on a junior high school level. We have no idea what our three year olds will be able to do when they are 11," explained the dynamic school director.

Clarifying that they don't only see their school as an alternative to the public school system but that it is a model school, Ms. Huggins pointed out, "We don't know of another school like ours. We're almost positive there isn't one, because we're doing something unique. We're working with children that the public school systems have said are 'uneducables,' are 'disruptives,' are 'educationally disadvantaged' and 'economically



deprived.' We work with these children and see to it that they learn to love themselves and other human beings.' "

Ms. Huggins explained to her spellbound audience that the school sees that its primary objective is to teach their children how to think, not what to think. Responding to numerous questions about how the school's program teaches the children in this way she cited many examples of how facts and experiences are brought to the children's attention. They are given the opportunity to know the facts, ask questions and decide for themselves what they think.

"A number of our children's fathers and mothers, who, by the way, have no political affiliation whatsoever, are in jails and prisons in California. And so when they ask us why they're there, then we try to give them an answer that begins their thinking about what a prison is and why people are really there. We could very well tell them that they're there because they committed a crime, and maybe we would say that, but then we'd break down for them what crime is; what it really is."

"The children more than anything else teach us, and so we help them to learn how to think. They'll say to us, 'My daddy's in jail, and that's because he robbed somebody, but look at what the people in the Watergate thing did. They're the real criminals, aren't they?' That's not us asking the questions. That's them. They read the newspapers, they see the news, and they have the ability to discern between things. They're real people; they're their own people. They have minds, and we don't really have to tell them a lot.

"One of the field trips that they really are very much interested in is going to the San Quentin 6 trial at Marin County Courthouse. And I can only describe it as the most cruel and horrendous thing you could probably ever see, because they are chained and they're shackled. They're separated from the rest of the court by a plexiglass wall, and there are guards surrounding them, and they have no ability to defend themselves. So when the children go, we don't say anything.

"The first time we took the children to Marin County courthouse we didn't have to say anything at all. We just walked them through the doors, and they began to tell us what was going on. When they had to walk through the first metal detector and have their knee socks and hair searched, we didn't have to tell them



At the workshop: "The children are our future; they're the only hope we have."

anything. We didn't have to say, 'Look at these ridiculous police searching your socks.' We didn't have to say, 'These people are dogs.' We didn't have to say anything. They told us with their looks or with their smiles what was happening. And when they moved in front of the guards who stand in front of the plexiglass which is in the front of the prisoners who are shackled around the neck, the ankles, the waist and are handcuffed, whose seats are bolted to the floor, when they moved beyond the guards to get to them to say hello, we didn't have to say anything. There was nothing we could say or that would make any difference.

"After the first time they visited they came back, and they all asked if they could write those prisoners and tell them what they felt. And they all came to the same conclusion by the little guidance we gave — that is showing it to them. That's all we did. They came to the same conclusion: that nobody, regardless of what they do, should have to exist under circumstances like that. And we never said it."

A summary of the philosophy and guiding viewpoint of the school can best be expressed in its Director's own words. "The children are our future. They're the only hope we have. They have a purity and a clarity that we've lost, and if we've found it, then it's too late. So, it's not that we want to cast any burden onto their shoulders, but the future is in their hands, and if they have the ability to think, then they can deal with all of the things that they're confronted with, not with the spontaneity that we have and the anger that we have, but with direction and commitment." □



# **Chicago Park District, Agent for Neighborhood Removal?**



The "swimming pool" at Buena & Kenmore has been empty for two years and is both an eyesore and a danger to the community.

In the face of planned neighborhood destruction and "revitalization" aimed at low-income neighborhoods, cries of community organizations have turned against what many term "the collusion between Mayor Daley, Chicago Park District Superintendent Kelly and real estate developers." Citing numerous examples citywide one community organizer stated, "Big buildings on prime land make good business; but parks and playgrounds that aid poor people in their struggle to stabilize their neighborhoods clearly stand in the way of the city's plan to drive us out. The use of public money to entice developers into an area is not something new to Mayor Daley. He's been doing it for years."

For three years the residents of north Lakeview petitioned the city of Chicago and the park district for the conversion of an empty lot on Byron and Greenview into a fenced-in children's playlot. In the spring of 1975, construction began. Within three months major portions of the

neighboring community had been demolished to clear the way for a large commercial shopping center.

In West Englewood, members of the Englewood Crime Prevention Project, a group of concerned community residents, found over 50 serious problems after inspecting the 18 parks and playlots in or near their community. In Ogden Park there were 65 accidents in one season due to broken glass in the pool, and the basketball court was submerged under six to eight inches of stagnant water. The field house at Lowe playground was closed. Sherman Park was being used as a dump for city sweepers, and the swing area was found to be flooded under stagnant water. The list goes on and on.

In Rogers Park angry residents organized, mobilized and successfully stopped park Superintendent Kelly's secret plan to turn Warren Park into a golf course using \$400,000 in federal





In the poor community: basketball courts without baskets in Ogden Park.



Standing and stagnant water where children play in Sherman Park.



This unsafe and unserviced equipment has resulted in several broken bones in the playlot at 4200 Broadway.

money.

On the 4200 block of N. Broadway, 100 mostly Black and oppressed families demonstrated, petitioned and demanded for two years that an empty lot near the courtyard buildings where they lived, be converted into a playground. In one year, two children had been killed and five seriously injured due to the lack of closed recreational space. In the fall of 1975, developer Bill Thompson evicted every family from the courtyards. Within days after the last family was forced to move, the Chicago Park District completed construction of a \$50 thousand playlot directly across the street from the courtyards.

The short hours, limited facilities and lack of necessary equipment at Gill Park, constructed at a cost of over \$1 million, renders the building almost unusable to much of the community that surrounds it. One group, requesting to use the gym, was told that they had to bring their own basketballs as Gill Park only owned three.

As summer approaches and the weather gets warmer, more and more people begin to use the city's outdoor recreational facilities. Community groups once again turn their attention to the inadequacy of the facilities and services provided by the Chicago Park District, a huge \$170 million a year operation, employing as many as 5,000 people and controlling more than one-third of the 11,000 acres of public recreation land in the city.

Community groups throughout Chicago express concern over "endless efforts that have little influence on the development policies of the Park District. Countless individuals, groups and community coalitions have appeared at the Park District board's monthly meetings to request new parks and playgrounds in their neighborhood or testify to the poor condition of existing facilities. Throughout all of this, the Park District appears unmoveable and unresponsive to the demands of community residents.

Recent research findings by *KEEP STRONG* investigators reveal an unmistakable pattern of land development employed by the plan to wipe out low-income communities through the destruction of housing and the denial of services to the people. A look at the recently published report of the Chicago Plan Commission entitled "1975-1979 Capital Improvement Program" underscores the deadly serious intention of the city to use the Park District as a key instrument in the destabilization and destruction of oppressed communities. □



# **Black Lung: Dark as a Dungeon**

Although only a few months old, The Chicago Area Black Lung Association (CABLA) has already begun to implement an ambitious program and has defined a series of long and short range goals. Founded in the fall of 1975, the group early defined their objectives: 1) to help miners, widows and children of deceased miners apply and fight for their black lung benefits; 2) to work to make the system bend and twist until it meets the needs of the hundreds of thousands of black lung victims and their families; 3) to educate to inform people who are unaware of our struggle, about its history and the present situation, and to educate black lung claimants and their families as to the concrete connection between their daily fight and the greater struggle for social justice led by Black people in this country.

Black lung disease is caused by the gradual settling of coal dust in a person's lungs as he works in the dust-filled coal mines of this country. The disease is a chronic one — that is, it grows progressively worse over time. As black lung progresses, the lung tissue dies, and the lungs start to lose their ability to pass oxygen into the blood stream. Breathing becomes difficult, and requires greater effort. The normal daily activities which we take for granted place great strain on a black lung victim; walking a few stairs, or a few blocks, tying your shoes or dressing yourself, even sleeping on your back brings great pain and suffering. Although medical researchers choose to classify four stages of black lung (called pneumoconiosis by doctors), most people with experience in the mines will tell you that a few years underground will bring crippling effects and reduce your ability to work to almost zero.

The long years of struggle by miners and their families were capped with partial success in 1969 when Congress passed the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act which authorized the Social Security Administration to make payments to black lung victims or their dependent survivors in the case of their death. In two short



**Bransom Blankenship, CABLA chairman, who recently appeared on the TV program, "Common Ground."**

years the Social Security Administration (SSA) proved itself incompetent to administer this program. Hundreds of thousands of miners were arbitrarily denied benefits and tens of thousands of claims were delayed much longer than necessary. Even today throughout the country, there are thousands of miners who are still trying to get benefits that they applied for in 1970 and 1971.

In 1972 Congress enacted the Black Lung Benefits Act which reformed many of the procedures and placed the program under the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor, unlike the SSA, has no black lung representative outside of Washington, D.C. making it virtually impossible to find out the status of your claim after it has been filed. Finding that they must apply for claims at their local social security office, even though the SSA has no jurisdiction over the program, many ex-miners in Chicago have been arbitrarily refused the right to file their claims. As Bransom Blankenship, chairman of the CABLA recently said on the T.V. program *Common Ground*, "The



Social Security office wants to file your claim and deny it right there on the spot, and they have no right to do that."

CABLA has taken the responsibility for organizing the thousand or more former miners who now live in Chicago into a united force that can pool its collective resources to help each claimant fight for his or her claim, while working to force the government to change the way it operates the program and make it more responsive to the needs of the people. The association helps black lung claimants in every stage of their cases from the initial filing of claims to the highest stages of appeal.

Aside from a general membership which has grown to almost 50, the association has a full-time office staff of three, co-ordinated by staff assistant Judy Branham. This group is charged with the responsibility for evidence gathering and the general development of materials which will support each claim — work records, medical histories, personal affidavits by other miners, etc.

The legislative committee, chaired by Lawrence Zornes, is busy at work developing a position on the new black lung reform bill presently before Congress, studying the UMWA

position on the bill, and making contact with legislators throughout the state and the country. The coal operators and big oil companies spend millions of dollars each year to lobby in Washington against any reform or liberalization in the black lung law. The efforts of CABLA are in line with the ongoing movement of black lung associations throughout the United States to insure that the new law reflects the real needs and problems of black lung victims present and future.

Of late, CABLA has begun to concentrate its attention on the blatant lack of interest of the medical industry in this country in the cure or prevention of black lung disease. Drawing a parallel to the manner in which sickle cell anemia affects Black people and went for years unnoticed as a major problem, association members recognize that black lung has been pushed aside because it is a disease affecting only poor people. According to CABLA Chairman Bransom Blankenship, the amount of money which is spent to research ways to prevent and treat black lung disease probably adds up to only a small fraction of the amount that the SSA or Department of Labor pays their "B readers" to reread X-rays and disqualify claimants. The total ignorance of doctors and radiologists in the Chicago area further points to the need for a greater



CABLA has taken the responsibility for organizing the thousand or more former miners who now live in Chicago into a united force.





Under the direction of its very capable leadership, CABLA prepares campaign to demand a new respiratory disease clinic in Chicago.

awareness in the entire medical profession about black lung disease.

The legislation which provided for black lung benefits also provided for dust control in the mines as the ultimate solution to black lung. Thus far, the so-called dust control has been ineffective but has nonetheless been used as an excuse to deny many claims. The law also provided for treatment and therapy to ease the suffering of black lung victims (there is no known cure for black lung).

A recent program established by the federal government under the direction of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has begun to set up respiratory disease clinics in coal field states and other areas where there are large numbers of former miners. Where miners and black lung victims are organized they have been able to exercise control over these clinics and make them work to the benefit of the victims and claimants.

Under the direction of its very capable leadership, the Chicago Area Black Lung Association is presently preparing for its campaign to demand the establishment of a respiratory disease clinic in the Chicago metro-

politan area. The clinic would not restrict itself to black lung disease, but could also test and prescribe treatment for respiratory ailments in all sectors of the oppressed community. Finally, performing the necessary tests which would produce evidence supporting black lung claims, the clinic would make it possible for black lung victims to be assured of an honest and objective diagnosis instead of the expense of seeing three or four doctors who have no knowledge or interest in this deadly occupational disease.

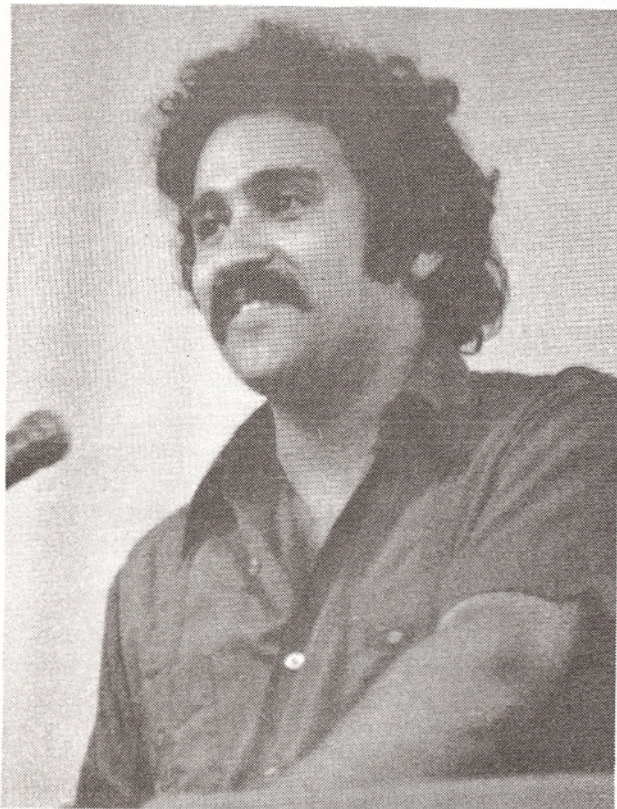
The coal industry has warned that the black lung benefits program must be defeated or other kinds of workers will make similar demands about particular diseases affecting them. The Chicago Area Black Lung Association does not shy away from this. Millions of people suffer greatly from various diseases which result from miserable working and living conditions. If the coal operators who have gotten so rich from the sufferings of the miners have to continue to pay black lung benefits to the victims, it will create an incentive for them to provide genuinely healthier working conditions for miners. This precedent *should* be set for other industries. Thus, the struggle for black lung benefits is at this time a very important part of the struggle for survival of all oppressed people. □



# **NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

## **July 4th Coalition Meets Repression**

The broad national coalition of over 100 organizations calling for a mass demonstration in Philadelphia to reclaim "our history, a history of struggle against oppression" has been met with vicious attacks by the government, showing that those in power retain an intensive contempt for the right of the American people to organize legally any political opposition, even now after watergate has been exposed to the nation. The demonstration, called under the banner of "200 Years and Still Not Free," will take place at the same time as the Pope, the Queen of England and other international dignitaries attend the other, government-sponsored, "bicentennial celebration." Coalition organizers maintain that the government bicentennial extravaganza is in fact



Alfredo Lopez speaking at a July 4th Coalition meeting in Chicago.

only an attempt by Ford to mobilize forces behind the policies that have led to high unemployment, cutbacks in basic rights and opportunities and the attempt to further enslave Puerto Rico in its colonial status. The July 4th Coalition will be in Philadelphia, in massive numbers, to demand decent jobs and standard of living for all, full democracy and equality and a bicentennial without colonies.

As the coalition spread from city to city and state to state across the country, uniting many of the peace forces of the sixties with working people struggling to survive and Black and Third World peoples seeking self-determination and independence, the government launched a massive counter campaign. A congressional investigation attempted to label some groups in the coalition as "terrorists," and rumors were spread that violence would be present at the demonstration. An attempt was made, but blocked, to deny the coalition a permit; articles were placed strategically among press contacts sympathetic to the FBI attempting to discredit the demonstration, and a totally arbitrary grand jury investigation in New York turned its attention to the organizers of the activity.

Coalition sponsors say that the attempt to suppress a voice of protest and opposition on July 4th has only heightened their determination to bring large numbers of people to Philadelphia, since the basic right to organize in this country is now at stake. Demonstrations in over 50 cities will take place on June 6 and June 12, focusing on this government's acts of repression, and from the demonstrations the coalition plans to move on to an even larger and more enthusiastic People's July 4th in Philadelphia. □

## **New York Residents Take Control Of Local Firehouse**

(Brooklyn, N.Y) For seven months community residents of the Northside-Greenpoint section of Brooklyn have successfully maintained control of their local firehouse in their struggle to protect their families and save their community. Last July, when people in the community learned their local fire station was to be closed down in





For seven months community residents of the Northside-Greenpoint section of Brooklyn have successfully maintained control of their local firehouse in the struggle to protect their families and save the community.

November, they decided to fight this from the beginning because of the great danger of fires in their community.

Most of the housing is old, wood frame structures. In addition there is the potential for very large, hard to control fires, because there are about ten oil companies located in the area with large gas storage tanks, among other factories surrounding the community. There are also gas pipelines running under the streets. It's almost impossible for community residents to get fire insurance.

The people of the community understand this as being part of a plan by the city of New York and the corporations in the area to get rid of the community and turn it into a purely industrial area. For several years they have been battling the city's attempts to destroy the community. For example, when the S & S Corrugated Box Company decided to expand their factory onto a block of privately-owned houses, the people refused to move, so the city condemned the buildings. Although the area is zoned commercial, which means that no new housing can be built, the community fought for and won relocation housing to be built across the street.

On Thanksgiving, 1975, the night before the fire station was to be closed, the Northside

Community Development Council, a local community group, and several hundred other community residents, barricaded the doors and prevented the men and equipment from leaving the building. Because they understood the community's need for the firehouse and the dangerous situation created by its closing, the firemen taught them how to operate the equipment, and the community kept control of the firehouse, fire engine, and equipment inside.

It was renamed "People's Engine Company #1," and Mr. Adam Veneski, a long time resident of Northside, was instituted as the people's fire chief.

Since that time, community residents have been working on several different levels to get the engine company and its trained personnel returned. They keep the firehouse open 24 hours a day, and some have actually moved in. They have a dispatcher's box and can hear all the calls going out to surrounding fire stations. They respond to these calls by loading up in cars and going to the fire. When they get there, they see what is going on, gather information, and in some cases give help to the people in the building. They usually get to the fires well before the city's fire companies (that are often dispatched from as far away as Manhattan), but are very limited in what they can do there.



They are putting continuous pressure on the city and the fire commissioner, John T. O'Hagan, who has already closed down six fire houses in the Northside area. They have been fighting the city and corporations every step of the way and are not about to stop. They see this as a key issue in their fight to save their community.

As one community resident put it, "We have

many problems here, the lack of protection against fires is just a very immediate one. There are many things that we will work on when we get our firehouse reopened. Tenant problems and the cutback in funds and services from the local hospital are on the top of the list. We will not be moved from here; we refuse to sit back and watch our community be destroyed." □

## Battle Heightens To Organize Southern Textile Industry

(Columbus, Ga.) Despite stiff opposition from the textile industry, a battle to unionize the mammoth industry is mounting across the South. The textile industry is the single largest in the southern states. Of this country's two million textile workers, only half of them are in unions. Of 550,000 primarily Black southern textile workers in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, only 50,000 belong to the region's major union, the Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA).

The history of the textile companies is one of exploitation and decades of struggle by workers to organize the industry. With the use of private armies, infiltrators, and intimidation of workers

together with the close collaboration of the courts and police, the textile companies have been successful in defeating many union drives.

"Since the textile industry is the backbone of the economy here, it sets the example for other industries," a union organizer for the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department (IUD), Mike Krevosh, told the *Pacific News Service*. The whole attitude of anti-unionism has spread throughout the industries and has kept wages down," he continued. According to the union, while the national average wage is \$4.62 an hour, workers in North Carolina receive \$3.34 an hour on the average giving North Carolina the nation's lowest average industrial wage.

Struggling to unionize the Southeast since 1962, the IUD and TWUA picked as their target J.P. Stevens, part of the Morgan empire and the nation's second largest textile manufacturer. Harassing and firing hundreds of workers, Stevens has been ordered to reinstate 289 workers with back pay totalling \$1.3 million.

Union officials have announced that in an upcoming convention this month the TWUA and



Despite the "non-union" atmosphere that has been created in the South, it is only a matter of time before the textile industry will become unionized.



the Amalgamated Clothing Workers (ACM) will merge. Combining their resources, the merged unions are expected to call for a nationwide boycott of Steven's products, similar to the successful ACM boycott against Farah Pants.

Union organizers say that despite the "non-union" atmosphere that has been created in the South it is only a matter of time before the textile industry has become unionized. In an interview with a local publication, Mr. Lacey Wright, a retired textile worker and union organizer said, "There's an old saying — When you get the wagon rolling, you've got to take it to the end of the road." □

## Race Hate, Not Busing The Issue

A continuing *KEEP STRONG* special investigation around the country shows that "busing" is still an issue used by organizations like the KKK and ROAR to stir up fears in all-white communities and thereby gain power and influence. In a not too different vein, President Ford is attempting to plaster together his bumbling campaign with statements and possible legal actions to oppose busing. Ford's statements

have been taken as a victory by extremist groups using the issue to promote race hatred.

A plan to bus inner-city children to the suburbs has been discussed in Chicago, followed closely by Superintendent Hannon's decision to close down several city schools, against the overwhelming wishes of the students and the community. In Milwaukee, racist groups are organizing frantically in anticipation of a possible desegregation order to come down during the month of June. In Boston violence continues both in the schools and in the community as the organization ROAR gives vocal support to brutal attacks against anyone who is Black — from the old to the very young.

In Louisville, a coalition of progressive organizations and individuals called "Progress in Education" continues to fight to ease racial tensions and to demand the protection of the children in Louisville's troubled schools and communities. The group has had some success in exposing the city's do-nothing attitude towards Klan inspired violence and in reaching the white community to open better lines of communication between them and the Black community. According to PIE members, vicious discrimination continues against the Black children bused into previously all-white schools, not only in Louisville but in other places throughout the South. They point out that the children have no choice in the matter. □



President Ford joined organizations like the KKK and ROAR in using busing as an issue to stir up fears in all-white communities and thereby gain power and influence.



# INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

## ZANU's War Of Liberation Challenges Rhodesian Capital

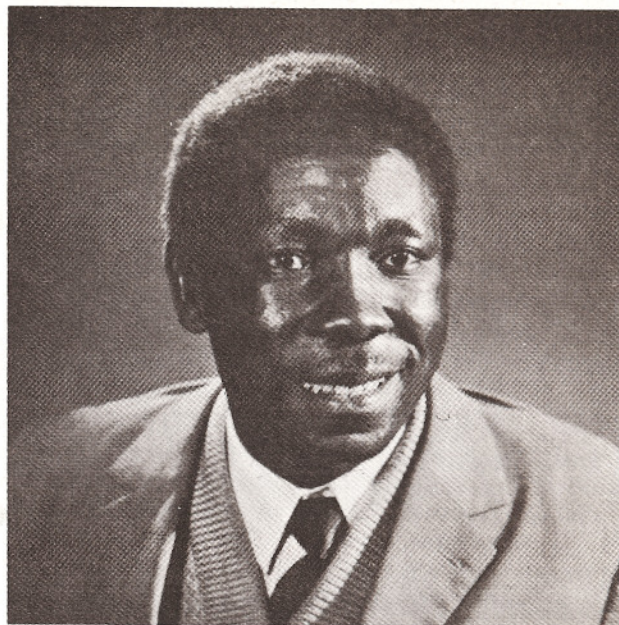
*In view of the recent publicity being given to southern Africa, KEEP STRONG, which has covered reports of the Zimbabwe armed struggle in the past, is delighted to publish the following special report from ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), sent by Eddison J.M. Zvobgo, Editor of ZIMBABWE NEWS, ZANU's North American District Publicity Secretary and Deputy-General of ZANU.*

*Zimbabwe (called Rhodesia by the white settlers) is a mineral wealthy country of just over six million. Its 95% African population is ruled by a 5% minority of 260,000 white settlers. One half of the land, the richest in minerals, oil, developed transportation and other resources, is reserved for and controlled by this minority. In spite of declarations and sanctions by the United Nations and all its member states since 1965 against the Ian Smith regime, the U.S. government has continued to back this illegal regime. The 500 top U.S. corporations have enormous investments in Zimbabwe.*

*While African support for the liberation fighters in Zimbabwe has grown greatly recently and the military strength and victories of the freedom fighters has increased African control of liberated areas of the country, the United States government continues to vacillate on the question of Black majority rule. African leaders charge that the U.S. is in fact sabotaging majority rule.*

The war for the total liberation of Zimbabwe from the capitalist white minority regime has now reached new heights. Reports reaching ZANU (North America) from the 18-member military Council in Mozambique show that the ZANLA (ZIPA) guerrillas are achieving more successes by the day.

By the week ending May 30, 1976, the



Eddison J.M. Zvobgo

guerrillas had fully stretched Ian Smith's army along the 2,000 plus mile border with African states. Despite the recent beefing-up of Ian Smith's army with American, South African, British, French and German mercenaries, the ZANLA-led forces have achieved a beautiful 1:2 kill ratio in a country where Africans outnumber whites 25:1. White farmers have now been driven off their stolen farms in such areas as Chiredzi, Sabi Valley, Chipinga, Melsetter, Odzi, Inyanga, Mtoko, Mount Darwin, Bindura and Plumtree. The farmers have been forced to seek shelter in the major towns (Umtali, Salisbury, Gwelo, Fort Victoria and Bulawayo).

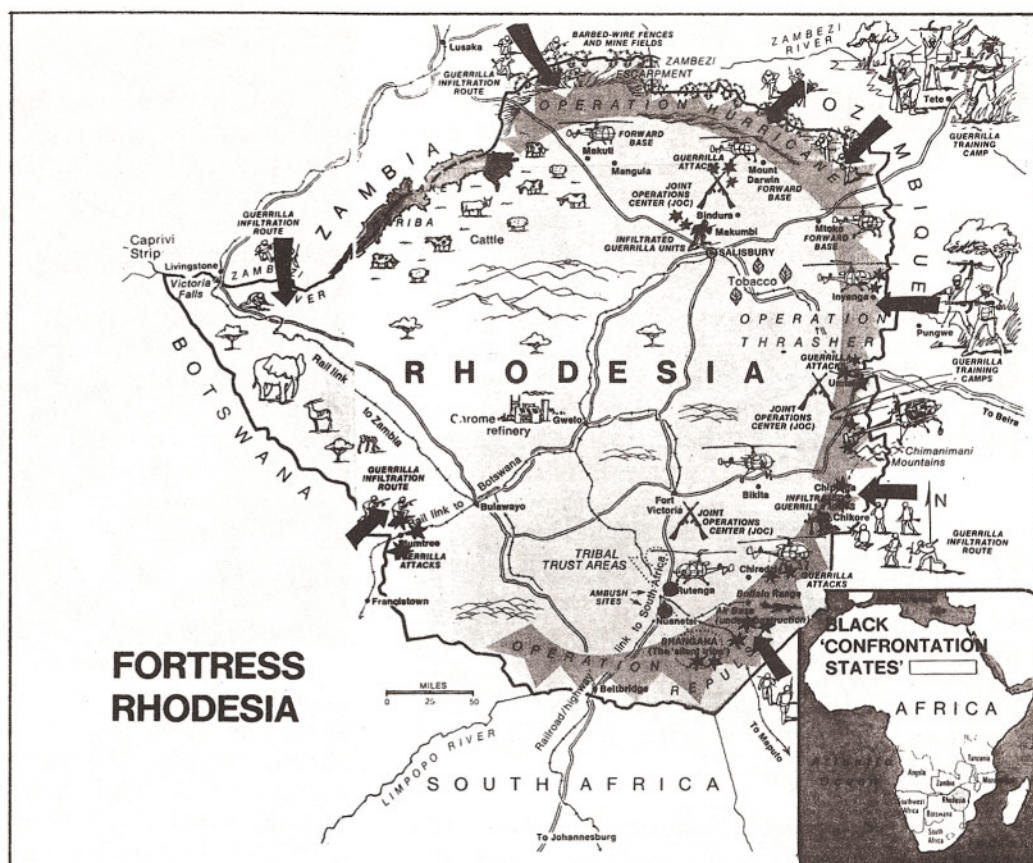
The ZANLA-led revolutionaries were reported by Ian Smith to be now operating near Makumbe and Macheke both within shelling distance of HARARE (Salisbury), the capital.

The speedy liberation of much of the countryside has afforded guerrillas the opportunity to reap crops from the so-called white farms and recover some livestock stolen from their forefathers by settlers. It has also meant that the ZANU/ZANLA leaders, in consultation with their ZAPU comrades, can now plan for massive re-occupation of the countryside by the erstwhile dispossessed masses. Come October when the rainy season begins, the entire economic life of the country is going to come to a standstill. Then the real push to liquidate the illegitimate Smith regime will come.

Already, nearly 10,000 settlers have left Zimbabwe in two months. By year-end it will be a torrent. Most will go to South Africa, the U.S.,



Zimbabwe (called Rhodesia by the white settlers) is a mineral wealthy country of just over six million. It's 95% African population is ruled by a 5% minority of 260,000 white settlers.



Britain and Australia.

Kissinger is now busy hatching new plans to sabotage the Zimbabwe Revolution. He has initiated a search for "moderates" to install in power. But even this effort is doomed to fail. The guerrillas have resolutely rejected Joshua Nkomo, Ndabaningi Sithole and Bishop Muzorewa. The 18-member Liberation Council, under the command of ZANLA'S General Solomon Mutuswa Nhongo, has sworn to fight until victory. They

are determined to implement ZANU'S Marxist-Leninist Mao-Tse-tung programs which will doom not only white minority rule but also the dreams of black bourgeois elites who had hoped for a "peaceful" solution (Zambia-style) so they can eat the peasants and auction the country.

We salute *Keep Strong* and The Black Panther Party. Forward together. □

Pamberi nechimurenga.

## Activists Denounce Bill To Keep Puerto Rico A U.S. Colony

(San Francisco, Calif.) - Black Panther Party chairperson Elaine Brown joined Puerto Rican independence leader Margarita Mergal, Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee (PRSC) representative David Block and attorney Michael Kennedy at a press conference here last Friday to denounce San Francisco Congressman Philip Burton's role in sponsoring legislation that would tighten U.S. colonial control over the island of Puerto Rico. Although he was unable to attend, a

strongly worded statement from Congressman Ron Dellums was read to the assembled media.

At issue is Burton's proposed legislation, "The Compact of Permanent Union between Puerto Rico and the United States." This bill, presently being rushed through Congress in hopes that it will be approved before the summer recess, establishes the island of Puerto Rico as a "Free Associated State" — a phrase, opponents of the legislation charge, means nothing other than the perpetuation of Puerto Rico as a U.S. colony in violation of several United Nations' resolutions reaffirming the Puerto Rican people's human rights to self-determination and independence.

In her concise statement, Elaine Brown



strongly presented the Black Panther Party's position condemning the proposed bill. "Black America must recognize," Elaine said, "the direct relationship between our plight for total equality and justice and the plight of the people of Puerto Rico."

"If this government is successful in colonizing Puerto Rico under the false name of statehood, as it has attempted and did attempt in Angola and elsewhere, then our lives — Black people's lives in this country — are in greater jeopardy and we can be surely driven from our present state of poverty and unemployment to total slavery."

"The Black Panther Party joins thousands of other right and progressive thinking people in denouncing Congressman Philip Burton in his drive to keep the people of Puerto Rico shackled in a permanent state of colonialism. We urge the Black Congressional Caucus, as well as other members of Congress, to put down Burton's colonial bill and allow the Puerto Rican people to enjoy the same freedoms this country claims to celebrate this year — the right of a people to determine their own lives and their own country."

Prior to Elaine's reading of the Black Panther Party's position statement, PRSC representative David Block and Puerto Rican independence leader Margarita Mergal presented their comments to the press. Leading off, Block's opening statement focused on Burton's proposed legislation, condemning Burton's "role in perpetuating the United States' colonial domination of Puerto Rico" while explaining the motivations and implications behind this move. "This bill ostensibly, according to its sponsors, would 'modernize' the legal status of Puerto Rico in relation to the U.S.," Block said. "However, despite all the cosmetic language... the bill in effect would

make Puerto Rico a permanent colony of the U.S."

Block explained that Burton's rush to have the bill passed by Congress "has to do with the upcoming United Nations' debate on Puerto Rico's colonial status, due to take place this August in the U.N. Decolonization Committee. "The reason why they want this bill passed before this debate has to do with the fact that, internationally, Puerto Rico has long been recognized as a colony of the U.S. In 1973, the U.N. voted overwhelmingly," Block explained, "by a vote of 104 to 5, that Puerto Rico was in fact a colony of the U.S...." Block charged Burton with complicity with the Ford administration in attempting to isolate the Puerto Rican issue as "an internal affair of the U.S."

"Democracy is a myth in my country," Margarita Mergal said forcefully, "because all important decisions about our lives are made in Washington. "Like working people all over the world we are struggling for our freedom and independence. The organized struggle of the Puerto Rican people for our liberation has always been strong."

"The Puerto Rican people welcome the support of all progressive people in the U.S. in opposing colonialism in Puerto Rico, in exposing 'The Compact of Permanent Union' for doing nothing more than exposing the colonial reality from people in the United States, on the island and throughout the world."

"We ask all progressive people," Ms. Mergal reiterated, "especially people in Philip Burton's district (which ironically, is composed of a majority of Black, Latino and Third World peoples), to denounce the 'Compact' and demand that it be defeated in the U.S. Congress."□



"Democracy is a myth in my country because all important decisions about our lives are made in Washington. We are struggling for our freedom and independence. The organized struggle of the Puerto Rican People for our liberation has always been strong."



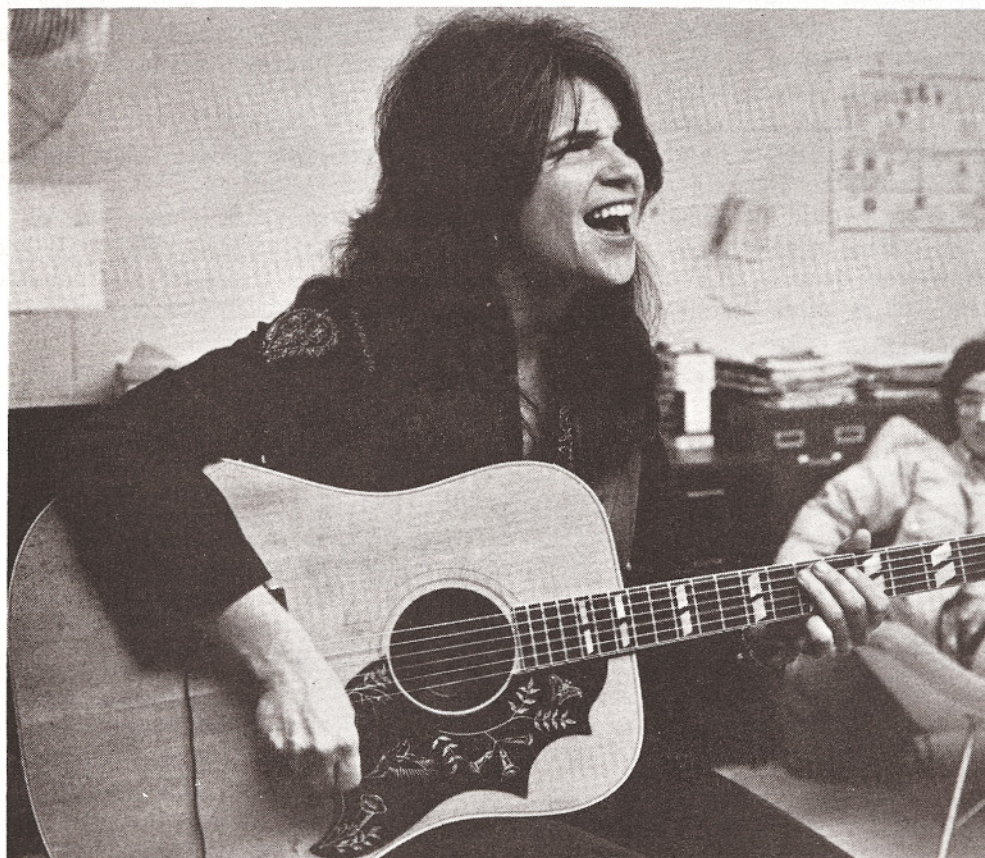
## Bev Grant and «The Human Condition»

Bev Grant and "The Human Condition" belong to us: those of us who want change, need change, and are willing to look honestly at both ourselves and the world outside to get change. The group's first album on Paredon records, "Working People Gonna Rise," has been met with enthusiasm wherever it has been heard, despite the small record company's inability to carry on major distribution. The group has appeared in cities throughout the country and everywhere has found sensational and sincere approval.

How has this group begun to gather such

strong support when major record companies have not adopted their "product"? While one session in person would make it clear, a quick listening to their first record is sufficient. To popular, spirited, original and rich musical arrangements are put words that cannot yet be heard on RCA or Columbia recordings. When you listen to or talk about this energetic young group, you are involved in change — from the inside out.

Ms. Grant explains that "Consciousness of my oppression as a woman began to develop, and this put me in touch with other contradictions in the



Bev Grant — "A process that made her see racism and the exploitation of people all over the world, 'How this all adds up to profits and advantages for the few, and poverty, degradation and hard work for the many.' "





"The Human Condition" with Beverly Grant.

society such as racism, the exploitation of people all over the world, and how this all adds up to profits and advantages for the few, and poverty, degradation and hard work for the many." The album actually takes us through the process she describes.

Setting the context on side one with "Things ain't what they used to be," which screams "I need some money/ 'cause I can't afford to live/ hey, Rockefeller/how would you like to give/," the album goes on through "Janie's Janie," "Charlie's Song," "Chain Reaction" and "Feel Good." In "Janie," Bev kicks Charlie out the door and becomes not Daddy's Janie, not Charlie's Janie, but Janie's Janie. In "Charlie's Song," Charlie reflects that maybe Jane was right because "Kings can't exist without slaves/ 'cause when they've had enough and choose to fight, when it's over, the king always pays/." Then in "Chain Reaction" the group belts out not to "take it out on me" when you come home from work and the boss to "find the pride you have lost" but instead "find the man who holds the chain in his hand/ and start a chain reaction headin' his way/." Then in "Feel Good" the group sums up the first side singing "You gotta feel good about yourself/ or you'll never feel good about me/."

Beginning to see the way clear of the contradictions between man and woman that often hold both back, side two of the album goes on to take apart the blindness that kept us from understanding the oppression shot down daily at poor and working parents in "Father" and

"Mama, I Remember," "Uncle Sam" takes apart the narrow, self-defeating mentality of the loyal company man in "Uncle Sam, can't you see, they control you and me.../." Then, past the prejudices drilled into the minds of white working people, Ms. Grant takes one step further to the understanding of the genocidal oppression of Black people in the song "Clifford Glover," which describes the backshooting murder of a ten year old Black youth by the white police officer Thomas Shea. As Shea goes free, based on an actual incident, the song explains the right to self-defense with "...When the people feel they've had enough, things get rough...".

On the album's quick moving but honest path to liberation, the last song lets it out of the bag; "In the land of opportunity/where the rich man owns it all tax free/while the working people struggling for our suppers/the working people are gonna rise/We're gonna open up our eyes/. Then go back to side one and begin again. Listen to it all the way through. And make it a reality in our lifetime.□

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The white comes from my grandma—  
She's a red-headed Irish maid  
The blue comes from the man I love  
Because I did 'fore I said I do, ah-oo  
That makes me a mixed-up breed of red, white and blue

### (Repeat Chorus)

I'm a blue-eyed Indian squaw  
Everybody calls me a half breed  
That's what you get when you sew  
A little red and white seed  
The white man said he'd marry me  
He lied 'cause baby's due  
That leaves me a mixed up breed of red, white and blue

### (Repeat Chorus)

The great white fathers had it planned  
To take the red man's land  
I bet you think I'm prejudiced  
But I'd never lie to you, ah-oo  
There's wild, red blood runnin' through my veins  
And I wish my skin was too, I wish my skin was too

### (Repeat Chorus)

Loretta Lynn

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